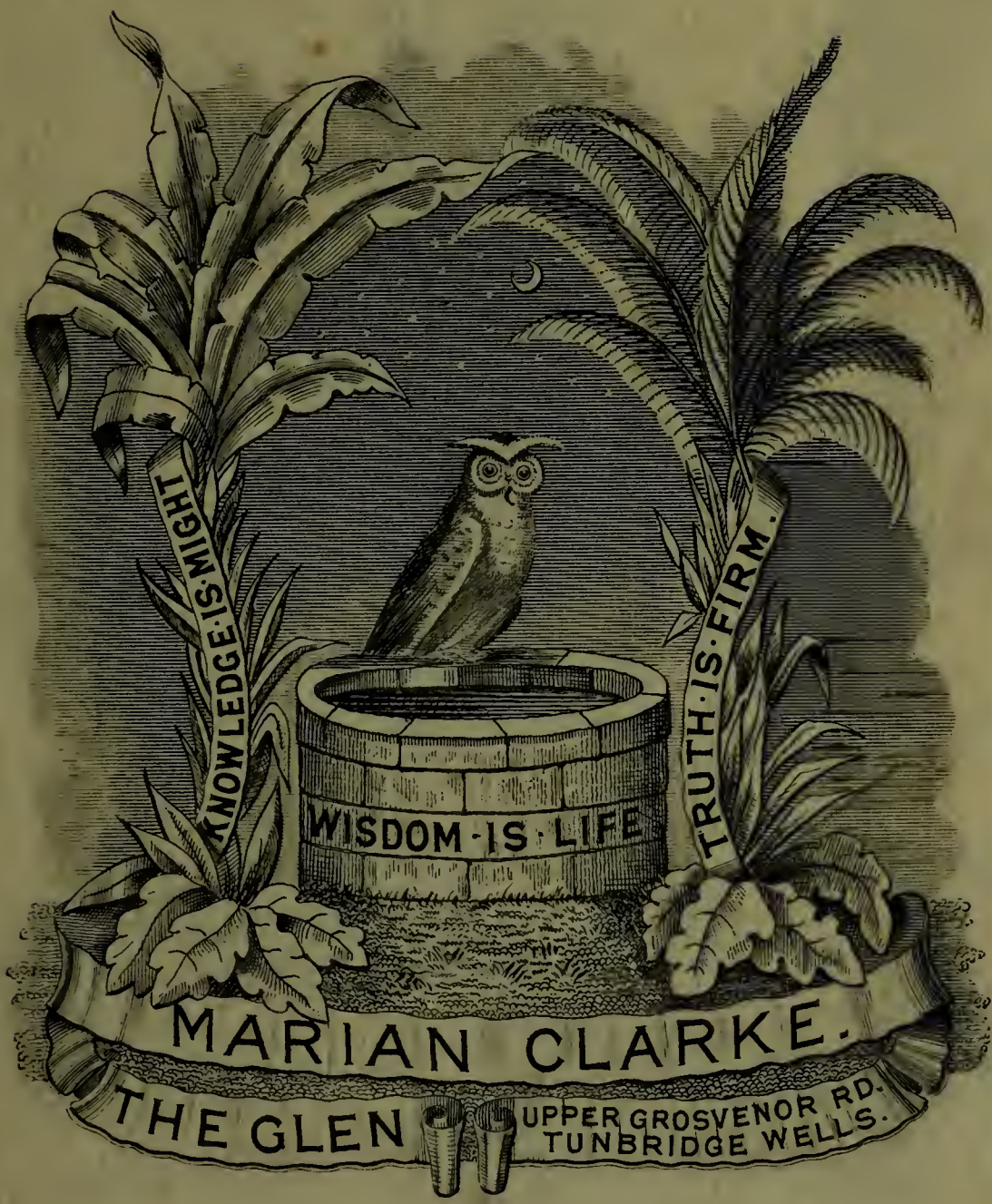






William Wild.



KNOWLEDGE IS MIGHT

TRUTH IS FIRM

WISDOM IS LIFE

MARIAN CLARKE.

THE GLEN



UPPER GROSVENOR RD.
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



C. 76
V. 2

THE
POETICAL WORKS

OF
SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

IN EIGHT VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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1822.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

JOHN D. ROSS, DECEASED

ET AL.

FILE NO. 100-10000

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OF
VOLUME SECOND.

MARMION.

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MARMION:
A TALE
OF FLODDEN FIELD.

IN SIX CANTOS.

*Alas ! that Scottish Maid should sing
The combat where her lover fell !
That Scottish Bard should wake the string,
The triumph of our foes to tell.—LEYDEN.*

THE HISTORY OF

A TALE

OF THE REFORMATION

IN GREAT BRITAIN

By JOHN CALVIN
Translated from the French
by Thomas Norton
and Thomas Digges

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT is hardly to be expected, that an Author, whom the Public has honoured with some degree of applause, should not be again a trespasser on their kindness. Yet the Author of MARMION must be supposed to feel some anxiety concerning its success, since he is sensible that he hazards, by this second intrusion, any reputation which his first Poem may have procured him. The present story turns upon the private adventures of a fictitious character; but it is called a Tale of Flodden Field, because the hero's fate is connected with that memorable defeat, and the causes which led to it. The design of the Author was, if possible, to apprize his readers, at the outset, of the date of his Story, and to prepare them for the manners of the Age in which it is laid. Any Historical narrative, far more an attempt at Epic composition, exceeds his plan of a Romantic Tale; yet he may be permitted to hope, from the popularity of THE LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL, that an attempt to paint the manners of the feudal times, upon a broader scale, and in the course of a more interesting story, will not be unacceptable to the Public.

The Poem opens about the commencement of August, and concludes with the defeat of Flodden, 9th September, 1513.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
HENRY,
LORD MONTAGUE,

&c. &c. &c.

THIS
ROMANCE IS INSCRIBED,
BY
THE AUTHOR.

MARMION.

Introduction to Canto First.

PARADISE

THE HISTORY OF THE

TO

WILLIAM STEWART ROSE, Esq.

Ashestiel, Ettrick Forest.

NOVEMBER'S sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear :
Late, gazing down the steepy linn,
That hems our little garden in,
Low in its dark and narrow glen,
You scarce the rivulet might ken,
So thick the tangled green-wood grew,
So feeble trill'd the streamlet through :
Now, murmuring hoarse, and frequent seen
Through bush and brier, no longer green,

An angry brook it sweeps the glade,
Brawls over rock and wild cascade,
And, foaming brown with double speed,
Hurries its waters to the Tweed.

No longer Autumn's glowing red
Upon our Forest hills is shed ;
No more, beneath the evening beam,
Fair Tweed reflects their purple gleam ;
Away hath pass'd the heather-bell
That bloom'd so rich on Needpath-fell ;
Sallow his brow, and russet bare
Are now the sister-heights of Yare.
The sheep, before the pinching heaven,
To shelter'd dale and down are driven,
Where yet some faded herbage pines,
And yet a watery sun-beam shines :
In meek despondency they eye
The wither'd sward and wintry sky,

And far beneath their summer hill,
Stray sadly by Glenkinnon's rill :
The shepherd shifts his mantle's fold,
And wraps him closer from the cold ;
His dogs no merry circles wheel,
But, shivering, follow at his heel ;
A cowering glance they often cast,
As deeper moans the gathering blast.

My imps, though hardy, bold, and wild,
As best befits the mountain child,
Feel the sad influence of the hour,
And wail the daisy's vanish'd flower ;
Their summer gambols tell, and mourn,
And anxious ask,—Will spring return,
And birds and lambs again be gay,
And blossoms clothe the hawthorn spray ?

Yes, prattlers, yes. The daisy's flower
Again shall paint your summer bower ;

Again the hawthorn shall supply
The garlands you delight to tie ;
The lambs upon the lea shall bound,
The wild birds carol to the round,
And while you frolic light as they,
Too short shall seem the summer day.

To mute and to material things
New life revolving summer brings ;
The genial call dead Nature hears,
And in her glory re-appears.
But oh ! my country's wintry state
What second spring shall renovate ?
What powerful call shall bid arise
The buried warlike and the wise ;
The mind, that thought for Britain's weal,
The hand that grasp'd the victor steel ?
The vernal sun new life bestows
Even on the meanest flower that blows ;

But vainly, vainly may he shine,
Where Glory weeps o'er NELSON'S shrine ;
And vainly pierce the solemn gloom,
That shrouds, O PITT, thy hallow'd tomb !

Deep grav'd in every British heart,
O never let those names depart !
Say to your sons,—Lo, here his grave,
Who victor died on Gadite wave ;
To him, as to the burning levin,
Short, bright, resistless course was given ;
Where'er his country's foes were found,
Was heard the fated thunder's sound,
Till burst the bolt on yonder shore,
Roll'd, blazed, destroy'd,—and was no more.

Nor mourn ye less his perish'd worth,
Who bade the conqueror go forth,
And launch'd that thunderbolt of war
On Egypt, Hafnia,* Trafalgar ;

* Copenhagen.

Who, born to guide such high emprise,
For Britain's weal was early wise ;
Alas ! to whom the Almighty gave,
For Britain's sins, an early grave ;
His worth, who, in his mightiest hour,
A bauble held the pride of power,
Spurn'd at the sordid lust of pelf,
And served his Albion for herself ;
Who, when the frantic crowd amain
Strain'd at subjection's bursting rein,
O'er their wild mood full conquest gain'd,
The pride, he would not crush, restrain'd,
Shew'd their fierce zeal a worthier cause,
And brought the freeman's arm to aid the freeman's
laws.

Had'st thou but lived, though stripp'd of power,
A watchman on the lonely tower,
Thy thrilling trump had roused the land,
When fraud or danger were at hand ;

By thee, as by the beacon-light,
Our pilots had kept course aright ;
As some proud column, though alone,
Thy strength had propp'd the tottering throne.
Now is the stately column broke,
The beacon-light is quench'd in smoke,
The trumpet's silver sound is still,
The warder silent on the hill !

Oh, think, how to his latest day,
When death, just hovering, claim'd his prey,
With Palinure's unalter'd mood,
Firm at his dangerous post he stood ;
Each call for needful rest repell'd,
With dying hand the rudder held,
Till, in his fall, with fateful sway,
The steerage of the realm gave way !
Then, while on Britain's thousand plains
One unpolluted church remains,
Whose peaceful bells ne'er sent around
The bloody tocsin's maddening sound,

But still, upon the hallow'd day,
Convoke the swains to praise and pray ;
While faith and civil peace are dear,
Grace this cold marble with a tear,—
He, who preserved them, PITT, lies here !

Nor yet suppress the generous sigh,
Because his Rival slumbers nigh ;
Nor be thy *requiescat* dumb,
Lest it be said o'er Fox's tomb.
For talents mourn, untimely lost,
When best employ'd and wanted most ;
Mourn genius high, and lore profound,
And wit that loved to play, not wound ;
And all the reasoning powers divine,
To penetrate, resolve, combine ;
And feelings keen, and fancy's glow,—
They sleep with him who sleeps below :
And, if thou mourn'st they could not save
From error him who owns this grave,
Be every harsher thought suppress'd,
And sacred be the last long rest.

Here, where the end of earthly things
Lays heroes, patriots, bards, and kings ;
Where stiff the hand, and still the tongue,
Of those who fought, and spoke, and sung ;
Here, where the fretted aisles prolong
The distant notes of holy song,
As if some angel spoke agen,
All peace on earth, good-will to men ;
If ever from an English heart,
O *here* let prejudice depart,
And, partial feeling cast aside,
Record that Fox a Britain died !
When Europe crouch'd to France's yoke,
And Austria bent, and Prussia broke,
And the firm Russian's purpose brave
Was barter'd by a timorous slave,
Even then dishonour's peace he spurn'd,
The sullied olive-branch return'd,
Stood for his country's glory fast,
And nail'd her colours to the mast !

Heaven, to reward his firmness, gave
A portion in this honour'd grave ;
And ne'er held marble in its trust
Of two such wondrous men the dust.

With more than mortal powers endow'd,
How high they soar'd above the crowd !
Theirs was no common party race,
Jostling by dark intrigue for place ;
Like fabled Gods, their mighty war
Shook realms and nations in its jar ;
Beneath each banner proud to stand,
Look'd up the noblest of the land,
Till through the British world were known
The names of PITT and FOX alone.
Spells of such force no wizard grave
E'er framed in dark Thessalian cave,
Though his could drain the ocean dry,
And force the planets from the sky.
These spells are spent, and, spent with these,
The wine of life is on the lees.

Genius, and taste, and talent gone,
For ever tomb'd beneath the stone,
Where—taming thought to human pride!—
The mighty Chiefs sleep side by side.
Drop upon Fox's grave the tear,
'Twill trickle to his rival's bier ;
O'er PITT's the mournful requiem sound,
And Fox's shall the notes rebound.
The solemn echo seems to cry,—
“ Here let their discord with them die ;
“ Speak not for those a separate doom,
“ Whom Fate made brothers in the tomb,
“ But search the land of living men,
“ Where wilt thou find their like agen ?”

Rest, ardent Spirits ! till the cries
Of dying Nature bid you rise ;
Not even your Britain's groans can pierce
The leaden silence of your hearse :
Then, O how impotent and vain
This grateful tributary strain !

Though not unmark'd from northern clime,
Ye heard the Border Minstrel's rhyme :
His Gothic harp has o'er you rung :
The Bard you deign'd to praise, your deathless names
has sung.

Stay yet, illusion, stay a while,
My wilder'd fancy still beguile !
From this high theme how can I part,
Ere half unloaded is my heart !
For all the tears e'er sorrow drew,
And all the raptures fancy knew,
And all the keener rush of blood,
That throbs through bard in bard-like mood,
Were here a tribute mean and low,
Though all their mingled streams could flow—
Woe, wonder, and sensation high,
In one spring-tide of ecstasy !—
It will not be—it may not last—
The vision of enchantment's past :

Like frost-work in the morning ray,
The fancied fabric melts away ;
Each Gothic arch, memorial-stone,
And long, dim, lofty aisle, are gone,
And, lingering last, deception dear,
The choir's high sounds die on my ear.
Now slow return the lonely down,
The silent pastures bleak and brown,
The farm begirt with copse-wood wild,
The gambols of each frolic child,
Mixing their shrill cries with the tone
Of Tweed's dark waters rushing on,

Prompt on unequal tasks to run,
Thus Nature disciplines her son :
Meeter, she says, for me to stray,
And waste the solitary day,
In plucking from yon fen the reed,
And watch it floating down the Tweed ;
Or idly list the shrilling lay
With which the milk-maid cheers her way

Marking its cadence rise and fall,
As from the field, beneath her pail,
She trips it down the uneven dale :
Meeter for me, by yonder cairn,
The ancient shepherd's tale to learn,
Though oft he stop in rustic fear,
Lest his old legends tire the ear
Of one, who, in his simple mind,
May boast of book-learn'd taste refined.

But thou, my friend, canst fitly tell
(For few have read romance so well)
How still the legendary lay
O'er poet's bosom holds its sway ;
How on the ancient minstrel strain
Time lays his palsied hand in vain ;
And how our hearts at doughty deeds,
By warriors wrought in steely weeds,
Still throb for fear and pity's sake ;
As when the Champion of the Lake

Enters Morgana's fated house,
Or in the Chapel Perilous,
Despising spells and demons' force,
Holds converse with the unburied corse ;
Or when, Dame Ganore's grace to move,
(Alas ! that lawless was their love)
He sought proud Tarquin in his den,
And freed full sixty knights ; or when,
A sinful man, and unconfess'd,
He took the Sangreal's holy quest,
And, slumbering, saw the vision high,
He might not view with waking eye.

The mightiest chiefs of British song
Scorn'd not such legends to prolong :
They gleam through Spenser's elfin dream,
And mix in Milton's heavenly theme ;
And Dryden, in immortal strain,
Had raised the Table Round again,

But that a ribald King and Court
Bade him toil on, to make them sport ;
Demanded for their niggard pay,
Fit for tneir souls, a looser lay,
Licentious satire, song, and play ;
The world defrauded of the high design,
Prophaned the God-given strength, and marr'd the
lofty line.

Warm'd by such names, well may we then,
Though dwindled sons of little men,
Essay to break a feeble lance
In the fair fields of old romance ;
Or seek the moated castle's cell,
Where long through talisman and spell,
While tyrants ruled, and damsels wept,
Thy Genius, Chivalry, hath slept :
There sound the harpings of the North,
Till he awake and sally forth,

On venturous quest to prick again,
In all his arms, with all his train,
Shield, lance, and brand, and plume, and scarf,
Fay, giant, dragon, squire, and dwarf,
And wizard with his wand of might,
And errant maid on palfrey white.
Around the Genius weave their spells,
Pure Love, who scarce his passion tells ;
Mystery, half veil'd and half reveal'd ;
And Honour, with his spotless shield ;
Attention, with fix'd eye ; and Fear,
That loves the tale he shrinks to hear ;
And gentle Courtesy ; and Faith,
Unchanged by sufferings, time, or death ;
And Valour, lion-mettled lord,
Leaning upon his own good sword.

Well has thy fair achievement shown,
A worthy meed may thus be won ;

Ytene's* oaks—beneath whose shade
Their theme the merry minstrels made,
Of Ascapart, and Bevis bold,
And that Red King,† who, while of old,
Through Boldrewood the chase he led,
By his loved huntsman's arrow bled—
Ytene's oaks have heard again
Renew'd such legendary strain ;
For thou hast sung, how He of Gaul
That Amadis so famed in hall,
For Oriana, foil'd in fight
The Necromancer's felon might ;
And well in modern verse hast wove
Partenopex's mystic love :
Hear then, attentive to my lay,
A knightly tale of Albion's elder day.

* The New Forest in Hampshire, anciently so called.

† William Rufus.

MARMION.

CANTO FIRST.

The Castle,

MARMION.

CANTO FIRST.

The Castle.

I.

DAY set on Norham's castled steep,
And Tweed's fair river broad and deep,
And Cheviot's mountains lone :
The battled towers, the Donjon Keep,
The loop-hole grates where captives weep,
The flanking walls that round it sweep,
In yellow lustre shone.

The warriors on the turrets high,
Moving athwart the evening sky,
Seem'd forms of giant height :
Their armour, as it caught the rays,
Flash'd back again the western blaze,
In lines of dazzling light.

II.

St George's banner, broad and gay,
Now faded, as the fading ray
Less bright, and less, was flung ;
The evening gale had scarce the power
To wave it on the Donjon tower,
So heavily it hung.
The scouts had parted on their search,
The castle gates were barr'd ;
Above the gloomy portal arch,
Timing his footsteps to a march,
The warder kept his guard ;
Low humming, as he paced along,
Some ancient Border gathering-song.

III.

A distant trampling sound he hears ;
He looks abroad, and soon appears,
O'er Horncliff-hill, a plump* of spears,

Beneath a pennon gay ;

A horseman, darting from the crowd,
Like lightning from a summer cloud,
Spurs on his mettled courser proud,

Before the dark array.

Beneath the sable palisade,

That closed the castle barricade,

His bugle-horn he blew ;

The warder hasted from the wall,

And warn'd the Captain in the hall,

For well the blast he knew ;

And joyfully that Knight did call

To sewer, squire, and seneschal.

* This word properly applies to a flight of water-fowl ; but is applied, by analogy, to a body of horse.

There is a Knight of the North Country,
Which leads a lusty *plump* of spears.

Flodden Field.

IV.

“ Now broach ye a pipe of Malvoisie,
Bring pasties of the doe,
And quickly make the entrance free,
And bid my heralds ready be,
And every minstrel sound his glee,
And all our trumpets blow ;
And, from the platform, spare ye not
To fire a noble salvo-shot ;
Lord Marmion waits below !” —
Then to the Castle’s lower ward
Sped forty yeomen tall,
The iron-studded gates unbarr’d,
Raised the portcullis’ ponderous guard,
The lofty palisade unsparr’d,
And let the draw-bridge fall.

V.

Along the bridge Lord Marmion rode,
Proudly his red-roan charger trod,

His helm hung at the saddle-bow ;
Well, by his visage, you might know
He was a stalworth knight and keen,
And had in many a battle been ;
The scar on his brown cheek reveal'd
A token true of Bosworth field ;
His eye-brow dark, and eye of fire,
Shew'd spirit proud, and prompt to ire ;
Yet lines of thought upon his cheek
Did deep design and counsel speak.

His forehead, by his casque worn bare,
His thick moustache, and curly hair,
Coal-black, and grizzled here and there,

But more through toil than age ;

His square-turn'd joints and strength of limb,
Shew'd him no carpet knight so trim,
But, in close fight, a champion grim,
In camps, a leader sage.

VI.

Well was he arm'd from head to heel,
In mail, and plate of Milan steel ;
But his strong helm, of mighty cost,
Was all with burnish'd gold emboss'd ;
Amid the plumage of the crest,
A falcon hover'd on her nest,
With wings outspread, and forward breast.
E'en such a falcon, on his shield,
Soar'd sable in an azure field ;
The golden legend bore aright,
Who checks at me, to death is dight.
Blue was the charger's broider'd rein ;
Blue ribbons deck'd his arching mane ;
The knightly housing's ample fold
Was velvet blue, and trapp'd with gold.

VII.

Behind him rode two gallant squires,
Of noble name, and knightly sires ;

They burn'd the gilded spurs to claim :
For well could each a war-horse tame,
Could draw the bow, the sword could sway,
And lightly bear the ring away ;
Nor less with courteous precepts stored,
Could dance in hall, and carve at board,
And frame love-ditties passing rare,
And sing them to a lady fair.

VIII.

Four men-at-arms came at their backs,
With halbert, bill, and battle-axe :
They bore Lord Marmion's lance so strong,
And led his sumpter-mules along,
And ambling palfrey, when at need
Him listed ease his battle-steed.
The last, and trustiest of the four,
On high his forky pennon bore ;
Like swallow's tail, in shape and hue,
Flutter'd the streamer glossy blue,

Where, blazon'd sable, as before,
The towering falcon seem'd to soar.
Last, twenty yeomen, two and two,
In hosen black, and jerkins blue,
With falcons broider'd on each breast,
Attended on their lord's behest.
Each chosen for an archer good,
Knew hunting craft by lake or wood ;
Each one a six-foot bow could bend,
And far a cloth-yard shaft could send ;
Each held a boar-spear tough and strong,
And at their belts their quivers rung.
Their dusty palfreys, and array,
Shew'd they had march'd a weary way.

IX.

'Tis meet that I should tell you now,
How fairly arm'd, and order'd how,
The soldiers of the guard,

With musquet, pike, and morion,
To welcome noble Marmion,
 Stood in the Castle-yard ;
Minstrels and trumpeters were there,
The gunner held his linstock yare,
 For welcome shot prepared :
Enter'd the train, and such a clang,
As then through all his turrets rang,
 Old Norham never heard.

X.

The guards their morrice-pikes advanced,
 The trumpets flourish'd brave,
The cannon from the ramparts glanced,
 And thundering welcome gave.
A blithe salute, in martial sort,
 The minstrels well might sound,
For as Lord Marmion cross'd the court,
 He scatter'd angels round.

“ Welcome to Norham, Marmion !
Stout heart, and open hand !
Well dost thou brook thy gallant roan,
Thou flower of English land ! ” —

XI.

Two pursuivants, whom tabarts deck,
With silver scutcheon round their neck,
Stood on the steps of stone,
By which you reach the Donjon gate,
And there, with herald pomp and state,
They hail'd Lord Marmion :
They hail'd him Lord of Fontenaye,
Of Lutterward and Scrivelbaye,
Of Tamworth tower and town ;
And he, their courtesy to requite,
Gave them a chain of twelve marks weight,
All as he lighted down.

“ Now, largesse, largesse,* Lord Marmion,
Knight of the crest of gold !
A blazon'd shield, in battle won,
Ne'er guarded heart so bold.”—

XII.

They marshall'd him to the castle-hall,
Where the guests stood all aside,
And loudly flourish'd the trumpet-call,
And the heralds loudly cried,
—“ Room, lordings, room for Lord Marmion,
With the crest and helm of gold !
Full well we know the trophies won
In the lists at Cottiswold :
There, vainly Ralph de Wilton strove
'Gainst Marmion's force to stand ;
To him he lost his lady-love,
And to the king his land.

* The cry by which the heralds expressed their thanks for the bounty of the nobles.

Ourselves beheld the listed field,
A sight both sad and fair ;
We saw Lord Marmion pierce his shield,
And saw his saddle bare ;
We saw the victor win the crest,
He wears with worthy pride ;
And on the gibbet-tree, reversed,
His foeman's scutcheon tied.
Place, nobles, for the Falcon-Knight !
Room, room, ye gentles gay,
For him who conquer'd in the right,
Marmion of Fontenaye !"—

XIII.

Then stepp'd to meet that noble lord,
Sir Hugh the Heron bold,
Baron of Twisell, and of Ford,
And Captain of the Hold.
He led Lord Marmion to the deas,
Raised o'er the pavement high,

And placed him in the upper place—

They feasted full and high :

The whiles a northern harper rude

Chaunted a rhyme of deadly feud,

“ How the fierce Thirwalls, and Ridleys all,

Stout Willimondswick,

And Hard-riding Dick,

And Hughie of Hawdon, and Will o’ the Wall,

Have set on Sir Albany Featherstonhaugh,

*And taken his life at the Deadman’s shaw.”—**

Scantly Lord Marmion’s ear could brook

The Harper’s barbarous lay ;

Yet much he praised the pains he took,

And well those pains did pay :

For lady’s suit, and minstrel’s strain,

By knight should ne’er be heard in vain.

XIV.

“ Now, good Lord Marmion,” Heron says,

“ Of your fair courtesy,

* The rest of this old ballad may be found in the note.

I pray you bide some little space
In this poor tower with me.
Here may you keep your arms from rust,
May breath your war-horse well ;
Seldom hath pass'd a week, but giust
Or feat of arms befel :
The Scots can rein a mettled steed,
And love to couch a spear ;—
St George ! a stirring life they lead,
That have such neighbours near.
Then stay with us a little space,
Our northern wars to learn ;
I pray you for your lady's grace."—
Lord Marmion's brow grew stern.

XV.

The Captain mark'd his alter'd look,
And gave a squire the sign ;
A mighty wassel bowl he took,
And crown'd it high with wine.

“ Now pledge me here, Lord Marmion :

But first, I pray thee fair,

Where hast thou left that page of thine,

That used to serve thy cup of wine,

Whose beauty was so rare ?

When last in Raby towers we met,

The boy I closely eyed,

And often mark'd his cheeks were wet

With tears he vain would hide :

His was no rugged horseboy's hand,

To burnish shield or sharpen brand,

Or saddle battle-steed ;

But meeter seem'd for lady fair,

To fan her cheeks or curl her hair,

Or through embroidery rich and rare,

The slender silk to lead :

His skin was fair, his ringlets gold,

His bosom—when he sigh'd,

The russet doublet's rugged fold

Could scarce repel its pride !

Say, hast thou given that lovely youth
To serve in Lady's bower?
Or was the gentle page, in sooth,
A gentle paramour?"—

XVI.

Lord Marmion ill could brook such jest:
He roll'd his kindling eye,
With pain his rising wrath suppress'd,
Yet made a calm reply:
"That boy thou thought'st so goodly fair,
He might not brook the northern air.
More of his fate if thou would'st learn,
I left him sick in Lindisfarn:
Enough of him.—But, Heron, say,
Why does thy lovely lady gay
Disdain to grace the hall to-day?
Or has that dame, so fair and sage,
Gone on some pious pilgrimage?"—

He spoke in covert scorn, for fame
Whisper'd light tales of Heron's dame.

XVII.

Unmark'd, at least unreck'd, the taunt,
Careless the Knight replied,
“ No bird, whose feathers gaily flaunt,
Delights in cage to bide :
Norham is grim, and grated close,
Hemm'd in by battlement and fosse,
And many a darksome tower ;
And better loves my lady bright
To sit in liberty and light,
In fair Queen Margaret's bower.
We hold our greyhound in our hand,
Our falcon on our glove ;
But where shall we find leash or band,
For dame that loves to rove ?
Let the wild falcon soar her swing,
She'll stoop when she has tired her wing.”—

XVIII.

“ Nay, if with Royal James’s bride,
The lovely Lady Heron bide,
Behold me here a messenger,
Your tender greetings prompt to bear ;
For, to the Scottish court address’d,
I journey at our king’s behest,
And pray you, of your grace, provide
For me, and mine, a trusty guide.
I have not ridden in Scotland since
James back’d the cause of that mock prince,
Warbeck, that Flemish counterfeit,
Who on the gibbet paid the cheat.
Then did I march with Surrey’s power,
What time we razed old Ayton tower.”—

XIX.

“ For such like need, my lord, I trow,
Norham can find you guides enow ;

For here be some have prick'd as far
On Scottish ground, as to Dunbar ;
Have drunk the monks of St Bothan's ale,
And driven the beeves of Lauderdale ;
Harried the wives of Greenlaw's goods,
And given them light to set their hoods."—

XX.

“ Now, in good sooth,” Lord Marmion cried,
“ Were I in warlike-wise to ride,
A better guard I would not lack,
Than your stout forayers at my back :
But, as in form of peace I go,
A friendly messenger, to know,
Why through all Scotland, near and far,
Their king is mustering troops for war,
The sight of plundering Border spears
Might justify suspicious fears,
And deadly feud, or thirst of spoil,
Break out in some unseemly broil :

A herald were my fitting guide ;
Or friar, sworn in peace to bide ;
Or pardoner, or travelling priest,
Or strolling pilgrim, at the least.”—

XXI.

The Captain mused a little space,
And pass'd his hand across his face.
—“ Fain would I find the guide you want,
But ill may spare a pursuivant,
The only men that safe can ride
Mine errands on the Scottish side :
And, though a bishop built this fort,
Few holy brethren here resort ;
Even our good chaplain, as I ween,
Since our last siege, we have not seen :
The mass he might not sing or say,
Upon one stinted meal a-day ;
So, safe he sat in Durham aisle,
And pray'd for our success the while.

Our Norham vicar, woe betide,
Is all too well in case to ride.
The priest of Shoreswood—he could rein
The wildest war-horse in your train ;
But then, no spearman in the hall
Will sooner swear, or stab, or brawl.
Friar John of Tillmouth were the man :
A blithesome brother at the can,
A welcome guest in hall and bower,
He knows each castle, town, and tower,
In which the wine and ale are good,
'Twixt Newcastle and Holy-Rood.
But that good man, as ill befalls,
Hath seldom left our castle walls,
Since, on the vigil of St Bede,
In evil hour he cross'd the Tweed,
To teach Dame Alison her creed.
Old Bughtrig found him with his wife ;
And John, an enemy to strife,
Sans frock and hood, fled for his life.

The jealous churl hath deeply swore,
That, if again he venture o'er,
He shall shrieve penitent no more.
Little he loves such risks, I know ;
Yet in your guard perchance will go.”—

XXII.

Young Selby, at the fair hall-board
Carved to his uncle, and that lord,
And reverently took up the word.
“ Kind uncle, woe were we each one,
If harm should hap to brother John.
He is a man of mirthful speech,
Can many a game and gambol teach ;
Full well at tables can he play,
And sweep at bowls the stake away.
None can a lustier carol bawl,
The needfullest among us all,
When time hangs heavy in the hall,

And snow comes thick at Christmas tide,
And we can neither hunt, nor ride
A foray on the Scottish side.
The vow'd revenge of Bughtrig rude
May end in worse than loss of hood.
Let Friar John, in safety, still
In chimney-corner snore his fill,
Roast hissing crabs, or flagons swill :
Last night, to Norham there came one,
Will better guide Lord Marmion."—
“ Nephew,” quoth Heron, “ by my fay,
Well hast thou spoke ; say forth thy say.”—

XXIII.

“ Here is a holy Palmer come,
From Salem first, and last from Rome ;
One, that hath kiss'd the blessed tomb,
And visited each holy shrine
In Araby and Palestine ;

On hills of Armenie hath been,
Where Noah's ark may yet be seen ;
By that Red Sea, too, hath he trod,
Which parted at the prophet's rod ;
In Sinai's wilderness he saw
The Mount where Israel heard the law,
Mid thunder-dint, and flashing levin,
And shadows, mists, and darkness, given.

He shews Saint James's cockle-shell,
Of fair Montserrat, too, can tell,

And of that Grot where Olives nod,
Where, darling of each heart and eye,
From all the youth of Sicily,

Saint Rosalie retired to God.

XXIV.

“ To stout Saint George of Norwich merry,
Saint Thomas, too, of Canterbury,
Cuthbert of Durham and Saint Bede,
For his sins' pardon hath he pray'd.

He knows the passes of the North,
And seeks far shrines beyond the Forth ;
Little he eats, and long will wake,
And drinks but of the stream or lake.
This were a guide o'er moor and dale ;
But, when our John hath quaff'd his ale,
As little as the wind that blows,
And warms itself against his nose,
Kens he, or cares, which way he goes."—

XXV.

“ Gramercy !” quoth Lord Marmion,
“ Full loth were I, that Friar John,
That venerable man, for me,
Were placed in fear or jeopardy.
If this same Palmer will me lead
From hence to Holy-rood,
Like his good saint I'll pay his meed,
Instead of cockle-shell, or bead,
With angels fair and good.

I love such holy rambles ; still
They know to charm a weary hill,
 With song, romance, or lay :
Some jovial tale, or glee, or jest,
Some lying legend at the least,
 They bring to cheer the way.”—

XXVI.

“ Ah ! noble sir,” young Selby said,
And finger on his lip he laid,
“ This man knows much, perchance e’en more
Than he could learn by holy lore.
Still to himself he’s muttering,
And shrinks as at some unseen thing.
Last night we listen’d at his cell ;
Strange sounds we heard, and, sooth to tell,
He murmur’d on till morn, howe’er
No living mortal could be near.
Sometimes I thought I heard it plain,
As other voices spoke again.

I cannot tell—I like it not—
Friar John hath told us it is wrote,
No conscience clear, and void of wrong,
Can rest awake, and pray so long.
Himself still sleeps before his beads
Have mark'd ten aves, and two creeds.”—

XXVII.

—“ Let pass,” quoth Marmion ; “ by my fay,
This man shall guide me on my way,
Although the great arch-fiend and he
Had sworn themselves of company.
So please you, gentle youth, to call
This Palmer to the castle-hall.”—
The summon'd Palmer came in place ;
His sable cowl o'er-hung his face ;
 In his black mantle was he clad,
 With Peter's keys, in cloth of red,
 On his broad shoulders wrought ;

The scallop shell his cap did deck ;
The crucifix around his neck
Was from Loretto brought ;
His sandals were with travel tore,
Staff, budget, bottle, scrip, he wore ;
The faded palm-branch in his hand
Shew'd pilgrim from the Holy Land.

XXVIII.

When as the Palmer came in hall,
Nor lord, nor knight, was there more tall,
Or had a statelier step withal,
Or look'd more high and keen ;
For no saluting did he wait,
But strode across the hall of state,
And fronted Marmion where he sate,
As he his peer had been.
But his gaunt frame was worn with toil ;
His cheek was sunk, alas, the while !

And when he struggled at a smile,

His eye look'd hagard wild :

Poor wretch ! the mother that him bare,

If she had been in presence there,

In his wan face, and sun-burn'd hair,

She had not known her child.

Danger, long travel, want, or woe,

Soon change the form that best we know—

For deadly fear can time outgo,

And blanch at once the hair ;

Hard toil can roughen form and face,

And want can quench the eye's bright grace,

Nor does old age a wrinkle trace,

More deeply than despair.

Happy whom none of these befall,

But this poor Palmer knew them all.

XXIX.

Lord Marmion then his boon did ask ;

The Palmer took on him the task,

So he would march with morning tide,
To Scottish court to be his guide.

—“ But I have solemn vows to pay,

And may not linger by the way,

To fair St Andrews bound,

Within the ocean-cave to pray,

Where good St Rule his holy lay,

From midnight to the dawn of day,

Sung to the billows' sound ;

Thence to St Fillan's blessed well,

Whose spring can frenzied dreams dispel,

And the crazed brain restore :

Saint Mary grant that cave or spring

Could back to peace my bosom bring,

Or bid it throb no more !” —

XXX.

And now the midnight draught of sleep,

Where wine and spices richly steep,

In massive bowl of silver deep,

The page presents on knee.

Lord Marmion drank a fair good rest,

The Captain pledged his noble guest,

The cup went through among the rest,

Who drain'd it merrily ;

Alone the Palmer pass'd it by,

Though Selby press'd him courteously.

This was the sign the feast was o'er ;

It hush'd the merry wassel roar,

The minstrels ceased to sound.

Soon in the castle nought was heard,

But the slow footstep of the guard,

Pacing his sober round.

XXXI.

With early dawn Lord Marmion rose :

And first the chapel-doors unclosed :

Then, after morning rites were done,
(A hasty mass from Friar John,)
And knight and squire had broke their fast,
On rich substantial repast,
Lord Marmion's bugles blew to horse :
Then came the stirrup-cup in course ;
Between the Baron and his host,
No point of courtesy was lost ;
High thanks were by Lord Marmion paid,
Solemn excuse the Captain made,
Till, fling from the gate, had past
That noble train, their Lord the last.

Then loudly rung the trumpet-call ;
Thunder'd the cannon from the wall,
And shook the Scottish shore ;
Around the castle eddied, slow,
Volumes of smoke as white as snow,
And hid its turrets hoar ;

Till they roll'd forth upon the air,
And met the river breezes there,
Which gave again the prospect fair.

END OF CANTO FIRST.

MARMION.

Introduction to Canto Second.

TO

THE REV. JOHN MARRIOT, M. A.

Ashestiel, Ettrick Forest.

THE scenes are desert now, and bare,
Where flourish'd once a forest fair,
When these waste glens with copse were lined,
And peopled with the hart and hind.
Yon Thorn—perchance whose prickly spears
Have fenced him for three hundred years,
While fell around his green compeers—
Yon lonely Thorn, would he could tell
The changes of his parent dell,

Since he, so grey and stubborn now,
Waved in each breeze a sapling bough ;
Would he could tell how deep the shade,
A thousand mingled branches made ;
How broad the shadows of the oak,
How clung the rowan* to the rock,
And through the foliage shew'd his head,
With narrow leaves, and berries red ;
What pines on every mountain sprung,
O'er every dell what birches hung,
In every breeze what aspens shook,
What alders shaded every brook !

“ Here, in my shade,” methinks he'd say,
“ The mighty stag at noon-tide lay :
The wolf I've seen, a fiercer game,
(The neighbouring dingle bears his name,)
With lurching step around me prowl,
And stop against the moon to howl ;

* Mountain-ash.

The mountain-boar, on battle set,
His tusks upon my stem would whet ;
While doe and roe, and red-deer good,
Have bounded by through gay green-wood.
Then oft, from Newark's riven tower,
Sallied a Scottish monarch's power ;
A thousand vassals muster'd round,
With horse, and hawk, and horn and hound ;
And I might see the youth intent,
Guard every pass with cross-bow bent ;
And through the brake the rangers stalk,
And falc'ners hold the ready hawk ;
And foresters, in green-wood trim,
Lead in the leash the gaze-hounds grim,
Attentive as the bratchet's* bay
From the dark covert drove the prey,
To slip them as he broke away.
The startled quarry bounds amain,
As fast the gallant grey-hounds strain ;

* Slow-hound.

Whistles the arrow from the bow,
Answers the harquebuss below :
While all the rocking hills reply,
To hoof-clang, hound, and hunters' cry,
And bugles ringing lightsomely."—

Of such proud huntings, many tales
Yet linger in our lonely dales,
Up pathless Ettrick and on Yarrow,
Where erst the Outlaw drew his arrow.
But not more blithe that sylvan court,
Than we have been at humbler sport ;
Though small our pomp, and mean our game,
Our mirth, dear Marriot, was the same.
Remember'st thou my grey-hounds true ?
O'er holt or hill there never flew,
From slip or leash there never sprang,
More fleet of foot, or sure of fang.
Nor dull, between each merry chace,
Pass'd by the intermitted space ;

For we had fair resource in store,
In Classic, and in Gothic lore :
We mark'd each memorable scene,
And held poetic talk between ;
Nor hill, nor brook, we paced along,
But had its legend, or its song.
All silent now—for now are still
Thy bowers, untenanted Bowhill !
No longer from thy mountains dun,
The yeoman hears the well-known gun,
And while his honest heart glows warm,
At thought of his paternal farm,
Round to his mates a brimmer fills,
And drinks, “ the Chieftain of the Hills !”
No fairy forms, in Yarrow's bowers,
Trip o'er the walks, or tend the flowers,
Fair as the elves whom Janet saw,
By moonlight, dance on Carterhaugh ;
No youthful Baron's left to grace
The Forest-Sheriff's lonely chace,

And ape, in manly step and tone,
The majesty of Oberon :
And she is gone, whose lovely face
Is but her least and lowest grace ;
Though if to Sylphid Queen 'twere given,
To shew our earth the charms of heaven,
She could not glide along the air,
With form more light, or face more fair.
No more the widow's deafen'd ear
Grows quick that lady's step to hear :
At noontide she expects her not,
Nor busies her to trim the cot ;
Pensive she turns her humming wheel,
Or pensive cooks her orphans' meal ;
Yet blesses, ere she deals their bread,
The gentle hand by which they're fed.

From Yair,—which hills so closely bind,
Scarce can the Tweed his passage find,

Though much he fret, and chafe, and toil,
Till all his eddying currents boil,—
Her long-descended Lord is gone,
And left us by the stream alone.
And much I miss those sportive boys,
Companions of my mountain joys,
Just at the age 'twixt boy and youth,
When thought is speech, and speech is truth.
Close to my side, with what delight
They press'd to hear of Wallace wight,
When, pointing to his airy mound,
I call'd his ramparts holy ground !*
Kindled their brows to hear me speak ;
And I have smiled, to feel my cheek,
Despite the difference of our years,
Return again the glow of theirs.
Ah, happy boys ! such feelings pure,
They will not, cannot, long endure ;

* There is, on a high mountainous ridge above the farm of Ashestiel, a fosse called Wallace's Trench.

Condemn'd to stem the world's rude tide,
You may not linger by the side ;
For Fate shall thrust you from the shore,
And Passion ply the sail and oar.
Yet cherish the remembrance still,
Of the lone mountain, and the rill ;
For trust, dear boys, the time will come,
When fiercer transport shall be dumb,
And you will think right frequently,
But, well I hope, without a sigh,
On the free hours that we have spent,
Together, on the brown hill's bent.

When, musing on companions gone,
We doubly feel ourselves alone,
Something, my friend, we yet may gain,
There is a pleasure in this pain :
It soothes the love of lonely rest,
Deep in each gentler heart impress'd.

'Tis silent amid worldly toils,
And stifled soon by mental broils ;
But, in a bosom thus prepared,
Its still small voice is often heard,
Whispering a mingled sentiment,
'Twixt resignation and content.
Oft in my mind such thoughts awake,
By lone St Mary's silent lake ;
Thou know'st it well,—nor fen, nor sedge,
Pollute the pure lake's crystal edge ;
Abrupt and sheer the mountains sink
At once upon the level brink ;
And just a trace of silver sand
Marks where the water meets the land.
Far in the mirror, bright and blue,
Each hill's huge outline you may view ;
Shaggy with heath, but lonely bare,
Nor tree, nor bush, nor brake is there,
Save where, of land, yon slender line
Bears thwart the lake the scatter'd pine.

Yet even this nakedness has power,
And aids the feeling of the hour :
Nor thicket, dell, nor copse you spy,
Where living thing conceal'd might lie ;
Nor point, retiring, hides a dell,
Where swain, or woodman lone, might dwell ;
There's nothing left to fancy's guess,
You see that all is loneliness :
And silence aids—though the steep hills
Send to the lake a thousand rills,
In summer tide so soft they weep,
The sound but lulls the ear asleep ;
Your horse's hoof-tread sounds too rude,
So stilly is the solitude.

Nought living meets the eye or ear,
But well I ween the dead are near ;
For though, in feudal strife, a foe
Hath laid Our Lady's chapel low,

Yet still beneath the hallow'd soil,
The peasant rests him from his toil,
And, dying, bids his bones be laid,
Where erst his simple fathers pray'd.

 If age had tamed the passions' strife,
And fate had cut my ties to life,
Here, have I thought, 'twere sweet to dwell,
And rear again the chaplain's cell,
Like that same peaceful hermitage,
Where Milton long'd to spend his age.
'Twere sweet to mark the setting day,
On Bourhope's lonely top decay ;
And, as it faint and feeble died,
On the broad lake and mountain's side,
To say, " Thus pleasures fade away ;
Youth, talents, beauty, thus decay,
And leave us dark, forlorn, and grey ;"—

 Then gaze on Dryhope's ruin'd tower,
And think on Yarrow's faded Flower :

And when that mountain-sound I heard,
Which bids us be for storm prepared,
The distant rustling of his wings,
As up his force the Tempest brings,
'Twere sweet, ere yet his terrors rave,
To sit upon the Wizard's grave ;
That Wizard Priest's, whose bones are thrust
From company of holy dust ;
On which no sun-beam ever shines—
(So superstition's creed divines,)
Thence view the lake, with sullen roar,
Heave her broad billows to the shore ;
And mark the wild swans mount the gale,
Spread wide through mist their snowy sail,
And ever stoop again, to lave
Their bosoms on the surging wave :
Then, when against the driving hail
No longer might my plaid avail,
Back to my lonely home retire,
And light my lamp, and trim my fire ;

There ponder o'er some mystic lay,
Till the wild tale had all its sway,
And, in the bittern's distant shriek,
I heard unearthly voices speak,
And thought the Wizard Priest was come,
To claim again his ancient home !
And bade my busy fancy range,
To frame him fitting shape and strange,
Till from the task my brow I clear'd,
And smiled to think that I had fear'd.

But chief, 'twere sweet to think such life,
(Though but escape from fortune's strife,)
Something most matchless, good, and wise,
A great and grateful sacrifice ;
And deem each hour, to musing given,
A step upon the road to heaven.

Yet him, whose heart is ill at ease,
Such peaceful solitudes displease :

He loves to drown his bosom's jar
Amid the elemental war :
And my black Palmer's choice had been
Some ruder and more savage scene,
Like that which frowns round dark Lochskene.
There eagles scream from isle to shore ;
Down all the rocks the torrents roar ;
O'er the black waves incessant driven,
Dark mists infect the summer heaven ;
Through the rude barriers of the lake,
Away its hurrying waters break,
Faster and whiter dash and curl,
Till down yon dark abyss they hurl.
Rises the fog-smoke white as snow,
Thunders the viewless stream below,
Diving, as if condemn'd to lave
Some demon's subterranean cave,
Who, prison'd by enchanter's spell,
Shakes the dark rock with groan and yell.

And well that Palmer's form and mien
Had suited with the stormy scene,
Just on the edge, straining his ken,
To view the bottom of the den,
Where, deep deep down, and far within,
Toils with the rocks the roaring linn ;
Then, issuing forth one foamy wave,
And wheeling round the Giant's Grave,
White as the snowy charger's tail,
Drives down the pass of Moffatdale.

Marriot, thy harp, on Isis strung,
To many a Border theme has rung :
Then list to me, and thou shalt know
Of this mysterious Man of Woe.

MARMION.

CANTO SECOND.

The Convent.

MARMION.

CANTO SECOND.

The Convent.

I.

THE breeze, which swept away the smoke,
Round Norham Castle roll'd,
When all the loud artillery spoke,
With lightning-flash, and thunder-stroke,
As Marmion left the Hold.
It curl'd not Tweed alone that breeze,
For, far upon Northumbrian seas,
It freshly blew, and strong,

Where, from high Whitby's cloister'd pile,
Bound to St Cuthbert's Holy Isle,
It bore a bark along.

Upon the gale she stoop'd her side,
And bounded o'er the swelling tide,
As she were dancing home ;

The merry seamen laugh'd to see
Their gallant ship so lustily
Furrow the green sea foam.

Much joy'd they in their honour'd freight ;
For, on the deck, in chair of state,
The Abbess of Saint Hilda placed,
With five fair nuns, the galley graced.

II.

'Twas sweet to see these holy maids,
Like birds escaped to green-wood shades,
Their first flight from the cage,
How timid, and how curious too,

For all to them was strange and new,
And all the common sights they view,
Their wonderment engage.
One eyed the shrouds and swelling sail,
With many a benedicite ;
One at the rippling surge grew pale,
And would for terror pray ;
Then shriek'd, because the sea-dog, nigh,
His round black head, and sparkling eye,
Rear'd o'er the foaming spray :
And one would still adjust her veil,
Disorder'd by the summer gale,—
Perchance lest some more worldly eye
Her dedicated charms might spy ;
Perchance, because such action graced
Her fair-turn'd arm and slender waist.
Light was each simple bosom there,
Save two, who ill might pleasure share,—
The Abbess, and the Novice Clare.

III.

The Abbess was of noble blood,
But early took the veil and hood,
Ere upon life she cast a look,
Or knew the world that she forsook.
Fair too she was, and kind had been
As she was fair, but ne'er had seen
For her a timid lover sigh,
Nor knew the influence of her eye.
Love, to her ear, was but a name,
Combined with vanity and shame ;
Her hopes, her fears, her joys, were all
Bounded within the cloister wall :
The deadliest sin her mind could reach,
Was of monastic rule the breach ;
And her ambition's highest aim
To emulate Saint Hilda's fame.
For this she gave her ample dower,
To raise the convent's eastern tower ;

For this, with carving rare and quaint,
She deck'd the chapel of the saint,
And gave the relique-shrine of cost,
With ivory and gems embost.
The poor her convent's bounty blest,
The pilgrim in its halls found rest.

IV.

Black was her garb, her rigid rule
Reform'd on Benedictine school ;
Her cheek was pale, her form was spare ;
Vigils and penitence austere
Had early quench'd the light of youth,
But gentle was the dame in sooth.
Though, vain of her religious sway,
She loved to see her maids obey,
Yet nothing stern was she in cell,
And the nuns loved their Abbess well.
Sad was this voyage to the dame ;
Summon'd to Lindisfarn she came,

There, with Saint Cuthbert's Abbot old,
And Tynemouth's Prioress, to hold
A chapter of Saint Benedict,
For inquisition stern and strict,
On two apostates from the faith,
And, if need were, to doom to death.

V.

Nought say I here of Sister Clare,
Save this, that she was young and fair ;
As yet a novice unprofess'd,
Lovely and gentle, but distress'd.
She was betrothed to one now dead,
Or worse, who had dishonour'd fled.
Her kinsmen bade her give her hand
To one, who loved her for her land :
Herself, almost heart-broken now,
Was bent to take the vestal vow,
And shroud, within Saint Hilda's gloom,
Her blasted hopes and wither'd bloom.

VI

She sate upon the galley's prow,
And seem'd to mark the waves below ;
Nay seem'd, so fix'd her look and eye,
To count them as they glided by.
She saw them not—'twas seeming all—
Far other scene her thoughts recal,—
A sun-scorch'd desart, waste and bare,
Nor wave, nor breezes, murmur'd there ;
There saw she, where some careless hand
O'er a dead corpse had heap'd the sand,
To hide it till the jackalls come,
To tear it from the scanty tomb.—
See what a woeful look was given,
As she raised up her eyes to heaven !

VII.

Lovely, and gentle, and distress'd—
These charms might tame the fiercest breast :

Harpers have sung, and poets told,
That he, in fury uncontroul'd,
The shaggy monarch of the wood,
Before a virgin, fair and good,
Hath pacified his savage mood.
But passions in the human frame
Oft put the lion's rage to shame :
And jealousy, by dark intrigue,
With sordid avarice in league,
Had practised, with her bowl and knife,
Against the mourner's harmless life.
This crime was charged 'gainst those who lay
Prison'd in Cuthbert's islet gray.

VIII.

And now the vessel skirts the strand
Of mountainous Northumberland ;
Towns, towers, and halls successive rise,
And catch the nuns' delighted eyes.

Monkwearmouth soon behind them lay,
And Tynemouth's priory and bay ;
They mark'd, amid her trees, the hall
Of lofty Seaton-Delaval ;
They saw the Blythe and Wansbeck floods
Rush to the sea through sounding woods ;
They pass'd the tower of Widderington,
Mother of many a valiant son ;
At Coquet-isle their beads they tell
To the good Saint who own'd the cell ;
Then did the Alne attention claim,
And Warkworth, proud of Percy's name ;
And next, they cross'd themselves, to hear
The whitening breakers sound so near,
Where, boiling through the rocks, they roar
On Dunstanborough's cavern'd shore ;
Thy tower, proud Bamborough, mark'd they there,
King Ida's castle, huge and square,
From its tall rock look grimly down,
And on the swelling ocean frown ;

Then from the coast they bore away,
And reach'd the Holy Island's bay.

IX.

The tide did now his flood-mark gain,
And girdled in the Saint's domain :
For, with the flow and ebb, the stile
Varies from continent to isle ;
Dry-shod, o'er sands, twice every day,
The pilgrims to the shrine find way ;
Twice every day, the waves efface
Of staves and sandall'd feet the trace.
As to the port the galley flew,
Higher and higher rose to view,
The Castle with its battled walls,
The ancient Monastery's halls,
A solemn, huge, and dark-red pile,
Placed on the margin of the isle.

X.

In Saxon strength that Abbey frown'd,

With massive arches broad and round,

That rose alternate, row and row,

On ponderous columns, short and low,

Built ere the art was known,

By pointed aisle, and shafted stalk,

The arcades of an alley'd walk

To emulate in stone.

On the deep walls, the heathen Dane

Had pour'd his impious rage in vain ;

And needful was such strength to these,

Exposed to the tempestuous seas,

Scourged by the winds' eternal sway,

Open to rovers fierce as they,

Which could twelve hundred years withstand

Winds, waves, and northern pirates' hand.

Not but that portions of the pile,

Rebuilded in a later stile,

Shew'd where the spoiler's hand had been ;
Not but the wasting sea-breeze keen
Had worn the pillar's carving quaint,
And moulder'd in his niche the saint,
And rounded, with consuming power,
The pointed angles of each tower :
Yet still entire the Abbey stood,
Like veteran, worn, but unsubdued.

XI.

Soon as they near'd his turrets strong,
The maidens raised Saint Hilda's song,
And with the sea-wave and the wind,
Their voices, sweetly shrill, combined,
And made harmonious close ;
Then, answering from the sandy shore,
Half-drown'd amid the breakers' roar,
According chorus rose :
Down to the haven of the Isle,
The monks and nuns in order file,

From Cuthbert's cloisters grim,
Banner, and cross, and reliques there,
To meet Saint Hilda's maids, they bare ;
And as they caught the sounds on air,
They echoed back the hymn.

The islanders, in joyous mood,
Rush'd emulously through the flood,
To hale the bark to land ;
Conspicuous by her veil and hood,
Signing the cross, the Abbess stood,
And bless'd them with her hand.

XII.

Suppose we now the welcome said,
Suppose the Convent banquet made :
All through the holy dome,
Through cloister, aisle, and gallery,
Wherever vestal maid might pry,
Nor risk to meet unhallow'd eye,
The stranger sisters roam ;

Till fell the evening damp with dew,
 And the sharp sea-breeze coldly blew,
 For there even summer night is chill.
 Then having stray'd and gazed their fill,

They closed around the fire ;
 And all, in turn, essay'd to paint
 The rival merits of their saint,
 A theme that ne'er can tire
 A holy maid ; for, be it known,
 That their saint's honour is their own.

XIII.

Then Whitby's nuns exulting told,
 How to their house three Barons bold
 Must menial service do ;
 While horns blew out a note of shame,
 And monks cry, " Fye upon your name !
 In wrath, for loss of sylvan game,
 Saint Hilda's priest ye slew."—

“ This, on Ascension-day, each year,
While labouring on our harbour-pier,
Must Herbert, Bruce, and Percy hear.”—
They told, how in their convent-cell
A Saxon princess once did dwell,
The lovely Edelfled ;
And how, of thousand snakes, each one
Was changed into a coil of stone,
When holy Hilda pray’d ;
Themselves, within their holy bound,
Their stony folds had often found.
They told, how sea-fowls’ pinions fail,
As over Whitby’s towers they sail,
And, sinking down, with flutterings faint,
They do their homage to the saint.

XIV.

Nor did Saint Cuthbert’s daughters fail,
To vie with these in holy tale ;

His body's resting-place, of old,
How oft their patron changed, they told ;
How, when the rude Dane burn'd their pile,
The monks fled forth from Holy Isle ;
O'er northern mountain, marsh, and moor,
From sea to sea, from shore to shore,
Seven years Saint Cuthbert's corpse they bore.

They rested them in fair Melrose ;

But though, alive, he loved it well,
Not there his reliques might repose ;

For, wondrous tale to tell !

In his stone-coffin forth he rides,
(A ponderous bark for river tides,)

Yet light as gossamer it glides,

Downward to Tilmouth cell.

Nor long was his abiding there,
For southward did the saint repair ;
Chester-le-Street, and Rippon, saw
His holy corpse, ere Wardilaw
Hail'd him with joy and fear ;

And, after many wanderings past,
He chose his lordly seat at last,
Where his cathedral huge and vast,
Looks down upon the Wear.

There, deep in Durham's Gothic shade,
His reliques are in secret laid ;
But none may know the place,
Save of his holiest servants three,
Deep sworn to solemn secrecy,
Who share that wondrous grace.

XV.

Who may his miracles declare !
Even Scotland's dauntless king, and heir,
(Although with them they led
Galwegians, wild as ocean's gale,
And Lodon's knights, all sheathed in mail,
And the bold men of Teviotdale,
Before his standard fled.

'Twas he, to vindicate his reign,
Edged Alfred's faulchion on the Dane,
And turn'd the conqueror back again,
When, with his Norman bowyer band,
He came to waste Northumberland.

XVI.

But fain St Hilda's nuns would learn,
If, on a rock, by Lindisfarn,
Saint Cuthbert sits, and toils to frame
The sea-born beads that bear his name:
Such tales had Whitby's fishers told,
And said they might his shape behold,
 And hear his anvil sound;
A deaden'd clang,—a huge dim form,
Seen but, and heard, when gathering storm
 And night were closing round.
But this, as tale of idle fame,
The nuns of Lindisfarn disclaim.

XVII.

While round the fire such legends go,
Far different was the scene of woe,
Where, in a secret aisle beneath,
Council was held of life and death.

It was more dark and lone that vault,
Than the worst dungeon cell ;
Old Colwulf built it, for his fault
In penitence to dwell,
When he, for cowl and beads, laid down
The Saxon battle-axe and crown.
This den, which, chilling every sense
Of feeling, hearing, sight,
Was call'd the Vault of Penitence,
Excluding air and light,
Was, by the prelate Sexhelm, made
A place of burial for such dead,
As, having died in mortal sin,
Might not be laid the church within.

'Twas now a place of punishment ;
Whence if so loud a shriek were sent,
As reach'd the upper air,
The hearers bless'd themselves, and said,
The spirits of the sinful dead
Bemoan'd their torments there.

XVIII.

But though, in the monastic pile,
Did of this penitential aisle
Some vague tradition go,
Few only, save the Abbot, knew
Where the place lay ; and still more few
Were those who had from him the clew
To that dread vault to go.
Victim and executioner
Were blind-fold when transported there.
In low dark rounds the arches hung,
From the rude rock the side-walls sprung ;

The grave-stones, rudely sculptured o'er,
Half sunk in earth, by time half wore,
Were all the pavement of the floor ;
The mildew drops fell one by one,
With tinkling splash, upon the stone.
A cresset,* in an iron chain,
Which served to light this drear domain,
With damp and darkness seem'd to strive,
As if it scarce might keep alive ;
And yet it dimly served to shew
The awful conclave met below.

XIX.

There, met to doom in secrecy,
Were placed the heads of convents three ;
All servants of Saint Benedict,
The statutes of whose order strict
On iron table lay ;

* Antique Chandelier.

In long black dress, on seats of stone,
Behind were these three judges shewn,

By the pale cresset's ray :

The Abbess of Saint Hilda's, there,
Sate for a space with visage bare,
Until, to hide her bosom's swell,
And tear-drops that for pity fell,

She closely drew her veil :

Yon shrouded figure, as I guess,
By her proud mien and flowing dress,
Is Tynemouth's haughty Prioress,

And she with awe looks pale :

And he, that Ancient Man, whose sight
Has long been quench'd by age's night,
Upon whose wrinkled brow alone,
Nor ruth, nor mercy's trace is shown,

Whose look is hard and stern,—

Saint Cuthbert's Abbot is his stile ;
For sanctity call'd, through the isle,
The Saint of Lindisfarn.

XX.

Before them stood a guilty pair ;
But, though an equal fate they share,
Yet one alone deserves our care.
Her sex a page's dress belied ;
The cloak and doublet, loosely tied,
Obscured her charms, but could not hide.
Her cap down o'er her face she drew ;
And, on her doublet-breast,
She tried to hide the badge of blue,
Lord Marmion's falcon crest.
But, at the Prioress' command,
A Monk undid the silken band,
That tied her tresses fair,
And raised the bonnet from her head,
And down her slender form they spread,
In ringlets rich and rare.
Constance de Beverley they know,
Sister profess'd of Fontevraud,

Whom the church number'd with the dead,
For broken vows, and convent fled.

XXI.

When thus her face was given to view,
(Although so pallid was her hue,
It did a ghastly contrast bear
To those bright ringlets glistening fair,)
Her look composed, and steady eye,
Bespoke a matchless constancy.
And there she stood, so calm and pale,
That, but her breathing did not fail,
And motion slight of eye and head,
And of her bosom, warranted
That neither sense nor pulse she lacks,
You might have thought a form of wax,
Wrought to the very life, was there ;
So still she was, so pale, so fair.

XXII.

Her comrade was a sordid soul,
Such as does murder for a meed ;
Who, but of fear, knows no controul,
Because his conscience, sear'd and foul,
Feels not the import of his deed ;
One, whose brute-feeling ne'er aspires
Beyond his own more brute desires.
Such tools the Tempter ever needs,
To do the savagest of deeds ;
For them no vision'd terrors daunt,
Their nights no fancied spectres haunt ;
One fear with them, of all most base,
The fear of death,—alone finds place.
This wretch was clad in frock and cowl,
And shamed not loud to moan and howl,
His body on the floor to dash,
And crouch, like hound beneath the lash
While his mute partner, standing near,
Waited her doom without a tear.

XXIII.

Yet well the luckless wretch might shriek,
Well might her paleness terror speak !
For there were seen, in that dark wall,
Two niches, narrow, deep, and tall ;—
Who enters at such griesly door,
Shall ne'er, I ween, find exit more.
In each a slender meal was laid,
Of roots, of water, and of bread :
By each, in Benedictine dress,
Two haggard monks stood motionless ;
Who, holding high a blazing torch,
Shew'd the grim entrance of the porch :
Reflecting back the smoky beam,
The dark-red walls and arches gleam.
Hewn stones and cement were display'd,
And building tools in order laid.

XXIV.

These executioners were chose,
As men who were with mankind foes,

And, with despite and envy fired,
Into the cloister had retired ;
Or who, in desperate doubt of grace,
Strove, by deep penance, to efface
Of some foul crime the stain ;
For, as the vassals of her will,
Such men the church selected still,
As either joy'd in doing ill,
Or thought more grace to gain,
If, in her cause, they wrestled down
Feelings their nature strove to own.
By strange device were they brought there,
They knew not how, and knew not where.

XXV.

And now that blind old Abbot rose,
To speak the Chapter's doom,
On those the wall was to inclose,
Alive, within the tomb ;

But stepp'd, because that woeful Maid,
Gathering her powers, to speak essay'd.
Twice she essay'd, and twice in vain ;
Her accents might no utterance gain ;
Nought but imperfect murmurs slip
From her convulsed and quivering lip :
 'Twixt each attempt all was so still,
You seem'd to hear a distant rill—
 'Twas ocean's swells and falls ;
For though this vault of sin and fear
Was to the sounding surge so near,
A tempest there you scarce could hear,
 So massive were the walls.

XXVI.

At length, an effort sent apart
The blood that curdled to her heart,
 And light came to her eye,
And colour dawn'd upon her cheek,
A hectic and a flutter'd streak,

Like that left on the Cheviot peak,
By Autumn's stormy sky ;
And when her silence broke at length,
Still as she spoke, she gather'd strength,
And arm'd herself to bear ;—
It was a fearful sight to see
Such high resolve and constancy,
In form so soft and fair.

XXVII.

“ I speak not to implore your grace ;
Well know I, for one minute's space
Successless might I sue :
Nor do I speak your prayers to gain ;
For if a death of lingering pain,
To cleanse my sins, be penance vain,
Vain are your masses too.—
I listen'd to a traitor's tale,
I left the convent and the veil,

For three long years I bow'd my pride,
A horse-boy in his train to ride ;
And well my folly's meed he gave,
Who forfeited, to be his slave,
All here, and all beyond the grave.—
He saw young Clara's face more fair,
He knew her of broad lands the heir,
Forgot his vows, his faith forswore,
And Constance was beloved no more.—

'Tis an old tale, and often told ;

But, did my fate and wish agree,
Ne'er had been read, in story old,
Of maiden true betray'd for gold,
That loved, or was avenged, like me !

XXVIII.

“ The King approved his favourite's aim ;
In vain a rival barr'd his claim,
Whose faith with Clare's was plight,

For he attaints that rival's fame
With treason's charge—and on they came,
In mortal lists to fight.

 Their oaths are said,

 Their prayers are pray'd,

 Their lances in the rest are laid,

They meet in mortal shock ;

And hark ! the throng, with thundering cry,

Shout ' Marmion, Marmion, to the sky,

 De Wilton to the block !'

Say ye, who preach Heaven shall decide,

When in the lists two champions ride,

 Say, was Heaven's justice here ?

When, loyal in his love and faith,

Wilton found overthrow or death,

 Beneath a traitor's spear.

How false the charge, how true he fell,

This guilty packet best can tell."—

Then drew a packet from her breast,

Paused, gather'd voice, and spoke the rest.

XXIX.

“ Still was false Marmion’s bridal staid ;

To Whitby’s convent fled the maid,

The hated match to shun.

‘ Ho ! shifts she thus ? ’ king Henry cried,

‘ Sir Marmion, she shall be thy bride,

If she were sworn a nun.’

One way remain’d—the king’s command

Sent Marmion to the Scottish land ;

I linger’d here, and rescue plann’d

For Clara and for me :

This caitiff Monk, for gold, did swear,

He would to Whitby’s shrine repair,

And, by his drugs, my rival fair

A saint in heaven should be.

But ill the dastard kept his oath,

Whose cowardice has undone us both.

XXX.

“ And now my tongue the secret tells,

Not that remorse my bosom swells,

But to assure my soul that none
Shall ever wed with Marmion.
Had fortune my last hope betray'd,
This packet, to the king convey'd,
Had given him to the headsman's stroke,
Although my heart that instant broke.—
Now, men of death, work forth your will,
For I can suffer, and be still ;
And come he slow, or come he fast,
It is but Death who comes at last.

XXXI.

“ Yet dread me, from my living tomb,
Ye vassal slaves of bloody Rome !
If Marmion's late remorse should wake,
Full soon such vengeance will he take,
That you shall wish the fiery Dane
Had rather been your guest again.
Behind, a darker hour ascends !
The altars quake, the crosier bends,

The ire of a despotic King
Rides forth upon destruction's wing.
Then shall these vaults, so strong and deep,
Burst open to the sea-winds' sweep ;
Some traveller then shall find my bones,
Whitening amid disjointed stones,
And, ignorant of priests' cruelty,
Marvel such relics here should be."—

XXXII.

Fix'd was her look, and stern her air ;
Back from her shoulders stream'd her hair ;
The locks, that wont her brow to shade,
Stared up erectly from her head ;
Her figure seem'd to rise more high ;
Her voice, despair's wild energy
Had given a tone of prophecy.
Appall'd the astonish'd conclave sate ;
With stupid eyes, the men of fate

Gazed on the light inspired form,
And listen'd for the avenging storm ;
The judges felt the victim's dread ;
No hand was moved, no word was said,
Till thus the Abbot's doom was given,
Raising his sightless balls to heaven :—

“ Sister, let thy sorrows cease ;
Sinful brother, part in peace !”—

From that dire dungeon, place of doom,
Of execution too, and tomb,

Paced forth the judges three ;

Sorrow it were, and shame, to tell

The butcher-work that there befell,

When they had glided from the cell

Of sin and misery.

XXXIII.

An hundred winding steps convey

That conclave to the upper day ;

But, ere they breathed the fresher air,
They heard the shriekings of despair,

And many a stifled groan :

With speed their upward way they take,
(Such speed as age and fear can make,)

And cross'd themselves for terror's sake,

As hurrying, tottering on :

Even in the vesper's heavenly tone,

They seem'd to hear a dying groan,

And bade the passing knell to toll

For welfare of a parting soul.

Slow o'er the midnight wave it swung,

Northumbrian rocks in answer rung :

To Warkworth cell the echoes roll'd,

His beads the wakeful hermit told ;

The Bamborough peasant raised his head,

But slept ere half a prayer he said ;

So far was heard the mighty knell,

The stag sprung up on Cheviot Fell,

Spread his broad nostril to the wind,
Listed before, aside, behind,
Then couch'd him down beside the hind,
And quaked among the mountain fern,
To hear that sound, so dull and stern.

END OF CANTO SECOND.

MARMION.

Introduction to Canto Third.

MEMORANDUM

TO : [Illegible]

TO

WILLIAM ERSKINE, Esq.

Ashestiel, Ettrick Forest.

LIKE April morning clouds, that pass
With varying shadow, o'er the grass,
And imitate, on field and furrow,
Life's chequer'd scene of joy and sorrow ;
Like streamlet of the mountain north,
Now in a torrent racing forth,
Now winding slow its silver train,
And almost slumbering on the plain ;
Like breezes of the autumn day,
Whose voice inconstant dies away,

And ever swells again as fast,
When the ear deems its murmur past ;
Thus various, my romantic theme
Flits, winds, or sinks, a morning dream.
Yet pleased, our eye pursues the trace
Of Light and Shade's inconstant race ;
Pleased, views the rivulet afar,
Weaving its maze irregular ;
And pleased, we listen as the breeze
Heaves its wild sigh through Autumn trees ;
Then wild as cloud, or stream, or gale,
Flow on, flow unconfined, my Tale.

Need I to thee, dear Erskine, tell,
I love the license all too well,
In sounds now lowly, and now strong,
To raise the desultory song?—
Oft, when 'mid such capricious chime,
Some transient fit of lofty rhyme
To thy kind judgment seem'd excuse
For many an error of the muse,

Oft hast thou said, “ If, still mis-spent,
Thine hours to poetry are lent,
Go, and, to tame thy wandering course,
Quaff from the fountain at the source ;
Approach those masters, o’er whose tomb
Immortal laurels ever bloom :
Instructive of the feebler bard,
Still from the grave their voice is heard ;
From them, and from the paths they shew’d,
Chuse honour’d guide and practised road ;
Nor ramble on through brake and maze,
With harpers rude of barbarous days.

“ Or, deem’st thou not our later time
Yields topic meet for classic rhyme ?
Hast thou no elegiac verse
For Brunswick’s venerable hearse ?
What ! not a line, a tear, a sigh,
When valour bleeds for liberty ?—
Oh, hero of that glorious time,
When, with unrivall’d light sublime,—

Though martial Austria, and though all
The might of Russia, and the Gaul,
Though banded Europe stood her foes—
The star of Brandenburgh arose !
Thou could'st not live to see her beam
For ever quench'd in Jena's stream.
Lamented chief !—it was not given
To thee to change the doom of heaven,
And crush that dragon in its birth,
Predestined scourge of guilty earth.
Lamented chief !—not thine the power,
To save in that presumptuous hour,
When Prussia hurried to the field,
And snatch'd the spear, but left the shield !
Valour and skill 'twas thine to try,
And, tried in vain, 'twas thine to die.
Ill had it seem'd thy silver hair
The last, the bitterest pang to share,
For princedom's reft, and scutcheons riven,
And birthrights to usurpers given ;

Thy lands, thy children's wrongs to feel,
And witness woes thou could'st not heal !
On thee relenting heaven bestows
For honour'd life an honour'd close ;
And when revolves, in time's sure change,
The hour of Germany's revenge,
When, breathing fury for her sake,
Some new Arminius shall awake,
Her champion, ere he strike, shall come
To whet his sword on BRUNSWICK'S tomb.

“ Or of the Red-Cross Hero teach,
Dauntless in dungeon as on breach ;
Alike to him the sea, the shore,
The brand, the bridle, or the oar ;
Alike to him the war that calls
Its votaries to the shatter'd walls,
Which the grim Turk, besmear'd with blood,
Against the Invincible made good ;
Or that, whose thundering voice could wake
The silence of the polar lake,

When stubborn Russ, and metal'd Swede,
On the warp'd wave their death-game play'd ;
Or that, where vengeance and affright
Howl'd round the father of the fight,
Who snatch'd on Alexandria's sand,
The conqueror's wreath with dying hand.

“ Or, if to touch such chord be thine,
Restore the ancient tragic line,
And emulate the notes that rung
From the wild harp, which silent hung
By silver Avon's holy shore,
Till twice an hundred years roll'd o'er ;
When she, the bold Enchantress, came,
With fearless hand and heart on flame !
From the pale willow snatch'd the treasure,
And swept it with a kindred measure,
Till Avon's swans, while rung the grove
With Monfort's hate and Basil's love,
Awakening at the inspired strain,
Deem'd their own Shakespeare lived again.”—

Thy friendship thus thy judgment wronging,
With praises not to me belonging,
In task more meet for mightiest powers,
Would'st thou engage my thriftless hours.
But say, my Erskine, hast thou weigh'd
That secret power by all obey'd,
Which warps not less the passive mind,
Its source conceal'd or undefined ;
Whether an impulse, that has birth
Soon as the infant wakes on earth,
One with our feelings and our powers,
And rather part of us than ours ;
Or whether fitlier term'd the sway
Of habit, form'd in early day ?
Howe'er derived, its force confess'd
Rules with despotic sway the breast,
And drags us on by viewless chain,
While taste and reason plead in vain.
Look east, and ask the Belgian why,
Beneath Batavia's sultry sky,

He seeks not eager to inhale
The freshness of the mountain gale,
Content to rear his whiten'd wall
Beside the dank and dull canal ?
He'll say, from youth he loved to see
The white sail gliding by the tree.
Or see yon weather-beaten hind,
Whose sluggish herds before him wind,
Whose tatter'd plaid and rugged cheek
His northern clime and kindred speak ;
Through England's laughing mead he goes,
And England's wealth around him flows ;
Ask, if it would content him well,
At ease in these gay plains to dwell,
Where hedge-rows spread a verdant screen,
And spires and forests intervene,
And the neat cottage peeps between ?
No ! not for these will he exchange
His dark Lochaber's boundless range,

Nor for fair Devon's meads forsake
Bennevis grey, and Garry's lake.

Thus, while I ape the measure wild
Of tales that charm'd me yet a child,
Rude though they be, still with the chime
Return the thoughts of early time ;
And feelings, roused in life's first day,
Glow in the line, and prompt the lay.
Then rise those crags, that mountain tower,
Which charm'd my fancy's wakening hour.
Though no broad river swept along,
To claim, perchance, heroic song ;
Though sigh'd no groves in summer gale,
To prompt of love a softer tale ;
Though scarce a puny streamlet's speed
Claim'd homage from a shepherd's reed ;
Yet was poetic impulse given,
By the green hill and clear blue heaven.

It was a barren scene, and wild,
Where naked cliffs were rudely piled ;
But ever and anon between
Lay velvet tufts of loveliest green ;
And well the lonely infant knew
Recesses where the wall-flower grew,
And honey-suckle loved to crawl
Up the low crag and ruin'd wall.
I deem'd such nooks the sweetest shade
The sun in all its rounds survey'd ;
And still I thought that shatter'd tower
The mightiest work of human power ;
And marvell'd, as the aged hind
With some strange tale bewitch'd my mind,
Of forayers, who, with headlong force,
Down from that strength had spurr'd their horse,
Their southern rapine to renew,
Far in the distant Cheviots blue,
And, home returning, fill'd the hall
With revel, wassel-route, and brawl.—

Methought that still with trump and clang
The gate-way's broken arches rang ;
Methought grim features, seam'd with scars,
Glared through the window's rusty bars.
And ever, by the winter hearth,
Old tales I heard of woe or mirth,
Of lovers' sleights, of ladies' charms,
Of witches' spells, of warriors' arms ;
Of patriot battles, won of old
By Wallace wight and Bruce the bold ;
Of later fields of feud and fight,
When, pouring from their Highland height,
The Scottish clans, in headlong sway,
Had swept the scarlet ranks away.
While stretch'd at length upon the floor,
Again I fought each combat o'er,
Peebles and shells, in order laid,
The mimic ranks of war display'd ;
And onward still the Scottish Lion bore,
And still the scatter'd Southron fled before.

Still, with vain fondness, could I trace,
Anew, each kind familiar face,
That brighten'd at our evening fire ;
From the thatch'd mansion's grey-hair'd Sire,
Wise without learning, plain and good,
And sprung of Scotland's gentler blood ;
Whose eye in age, quick, clear, and keen,
Shew'd what in youth its glance had been ;
Whose doom discording neighbours sought,
Content with equity unbought ;
To him the venerable Priest,
Our frequent and familiar guest,
Whose life and manners well could paint
Alike the student and the saint ;
Alas ! whose speech too oft I broke
With gambol rude and timeless joke :
For I was wayward, bold, and wild,
A self-will'd imp, a grandame's child ;
But half a plague, and half a jest,
Was still endured, beloved, carest.

From me, thus nurtured, dost thou ask
The classic poet's well-conn'd task?
Nay, Erskine, nay—On the wild hill
Let the wild heath-bell flourish still;
Cherish the tulip, prune the vine,
But freely let the woodbine twine,
And leave untrimm'd the eglantine:
Nay, my friend, nay—Since oft thy praise
Hath given fresh vigour to my lays,
Since oft thy judgment could refine
My flatten'd thought, or cumbrous line,
Still kind, as is thy wont, attend,
And in the minstrel spare the friend,
Though wild as cloud, as stream, as gale,
Flow forth, flow unrestrain'd, my Tale!

The first part of the history is a general account of the
 state of the world at the beginning of the world. It
 describes the creation of the world, the fall of man,
 and the dispersion of the human race. It also
 mentions the various nations and kingdoms that
 were founded in the world, and the progress of
 the human race towards civilization. The second
 part of the history is a particular account of the
 history of the British nation, from the time of
 the first settlement in the island to the present
 time. It describes the various kings and
 queens that have reigned in the island, and
 the various events that have happened in the
 history of the nation. The third part of the
 history is a particular account of the history of
 the British empire, from the time of the first
 settlement in the island to the present time. It
 describes the various wars and conquests that
 have been made by the British nation, and the
 progress of the British empire towards
 greatness. The fourth part of the history is a
 particular account of the history of the British
 colonies, from the time of the first settlement
 in the island to the present time. It describes
 the various wars and conquests that have been
 made by the British nation in the colonies, and
 the progress of the British colonies towards
 greatness. The fifth part of the history is a
 particular account of the history of the British
 empire, from the time of the first settlement
 in the island to the present time. It describes
 the various wars and conquests that have been
 made by the British nation in the empire, and
 the progress of the British empire towards
 greatness.

MARMION.

CANTO THIRD.

The Hostel, or Inn.

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CANTO THIRD.

The Hostel, or Inn.

I.

THE livelong day Lord Marmion rode :
The mountain-path the Palmer show'd ;
By glen and streamlet winded still,
Where stunted birches hid the rill.
They might not chuse the lowland road,
For the Merse forayers were abroad,
Who, fired with hate and thirst of prey,
Had scarcely fail'd to bar their way.

Oft on the trampling band, from crown
Of some tall cliff, the deer look'd down ;
On wing of jet, from his repose
In the deep heath, the black-cock rose ;
Sprung from the gorse the timid roe,
Nor waited for the bending bow ;
And when the stony path began,
By which the naked peak they wan,
Up flew the snowy ptarmigan.
The noon had long been pass'd before
They gain'd the height of Lammermore ;
Thence winding down the northern way,
Before them, at the close of day,
Old Gifford's towers and hamlet lay.

II.

No summons calls them to the tower,
To spend the hospitable hour.
To Scotland's camp the Lord was gone ;
His cautious dame, in bower alone,

Dreaded her castle to unclose,
So late, to unknown friends or foes.

On through the hamlet as they paced,
Before a porch, whose front was graced
With bush and flagon trimly placed,

Lord Marmion drew his rein :

The village inn seem'd large, though rude ;
Its cheerful fire and hearty food

Might well relieve his train.

Down from their seats the horsemen sprang,

With jingling spurs the court-yard rang ;

They bind their horses to the stall,

For forage, food, and firing call,

And various clamour fills the hall ;

Weighing the labour with the cost,

Toils everywhere the bustling host.

III.

Soon, by the chimney's merry blaze,

Through the rude hostel might you gaze ;

Might see, where, in dark nook aloof,

The rafters of the sooty roof

Bore wealth of winter cheer ;

Of sea-fowl dried, and solands store,

And gammons of the tusky boar,

And savoury haunch of deer.

The chimney arch projected wide ;

Above, around it, and beside,

Were tools for housewives' hand ;

Nor wanted, in that martial day,

The implements of Scottish fray,

The buckler, lance, and brand.

Beneath its shade, the place of state,

On oaken settle Marmion sate,

And view'd, around the blazing hearth,

His followers mix in noisy mirth,

Whom with brown ale, in jolly tide,

From ancient vessels ranged aside,

Full actively their host supplied.

IV.

Their's was the glee of martial breast,
And laughter their's at little jest ;
And oft Lord Marmion deign'd to aid,
And mingle in the mirth they made :
For though, with men of high degree,
The proudest of the proud was he,
Yet, train'd in camps, he knew the art
To win the soldiers' hardy heart.

They love a captain to obey,
Boisterous as March, yet fresh as May ;
With open hand, and brow as free,
Lover of wine, and minstrelsy ;
Ever the first to scale a tower,
As venturous in a lady's bower :—
Such buxom chief shall lead his host
From India's fires to Zembla's frost.

— V.

Resting upon his pilgrim staff,
Right opposite the Palmer stood ;

His thin dark visage seen but half,
Half hidden by his hood.
Still fix'd on Marmion was his look,
Which he, who ill such gaze could brook,
Strove by a frown to quell ;
But not for that, though more than once
Full met their stern encountering glance,
The Palmer's visage fell.

VI.

By fits less frequent from the crowd
Was heard the burst of laughter loud ;
For still, as squire and archer stared
On that dark face and matted beard,
Their glee and game declined,
All gazed at length in silence drear,
Unbroke, save when in comrade's ear
Some yeoman, wondering in his fear,
Thus whisper'd forth his mind :—
“ Saint Mary ! saw'st thou e'er such sight ?

How pale his cheek, his eye how bright,
Whene'er the fire-brand's fickle light
 Glances beneath his cowl !
Full on our Lord he sets his eye ;
For his best palfrey, would not I
 Endure that sullen scowl."—

VII.

But Marmion, as to chase the awe
Which thus had quell'd their hearts, who saw
The ever-varying fire-light show
That figure stern and face of woe,
 Now call'd upon a squire :—
" Fitz-Eustace, know'st thou not some lay,
To speed the lingering night away ?
 We slumber by the fire."—

VIII.

" So please you," thus the youth rejoin'd,
" Our choicest minstrel's left behind.

Ill may we hope to please your ear,
Accustom'd Constant's strains to hear.
The harp full deftly can he strike,
And wake the lover's lute alike ;
To dear Saint Valentine no thrush
Sings livelier from a spring-tide bush ;
No nightingale her love-lorn tune
More sweetly warbles to the moon.
Woe to the cause, whate'er it be,
Detains from us his melody,
Lavish'd on rocks, and billows stern,
Or duller monks of Lindisfern.
Now must I venture, as I may,
To sing his favourite roundelay."

IX.

A mellow voice Fitz-Eustace had,
The air he chose was wild and sad ;
Such have I heard, in Scottish land,
Rise from the busy harvest band,

When falls before the mountaineer,
On lowland plains, the ripen'd ear.
Now one shrill voice the notes prolong,
Now a wild chorus swells the song :
Oft have I listen'd and stood still,
As it came soften'd up the hill,
And deem'd it the lament of men
Who languish'd for their native glen ;
And thought how sad would be such sound,
On Susquehana's swampy ground,
Kentucky's wood-encumber'd brake,
Or wild Ontario's boundless lake,
Where heart-sick exiles, in the strain,
Recall'd fair Scotland's hills again !

X.

Song.

Where shall the lover rest,
Whom the fates sever
From his true maiden's breast,
Parted for ever ?

Where, through groves deep and high,
Sounds the far billow,
Where early violets die,
Under the willow.

CHORUS.

Eleu loro, &c. Soft shall be his pillow.

There, through the summer day,
Cool streams are laving ;
There, while the tempests sway,
Scarce are boughs waving ;
There, thy rest shalt thou take,
Parted for ever,
Never again to wake,
Never, O never.

CHORUS.

Eleu loro, &c. Never, O never.

XI.

Where shall the traitor rest,
He, the deceiver,

Who could win maiden's breast,

Ruin, and leave her ?

In the lost battle,

Borne down by the flying,

Where mingles war's rattle

With groans of the dying.

CHORUS.

Eleu loro, &c. There shall he be lying.

Her wing shall the eagle flap

O'er the false-hearted,

His warm blood the wolf shall lap,

Ere life be parted.

Shame and dishonour sit

By his grave ever ;

Blessing shall hallow it,—

Never, O never !

CHORUS.

Eleu loro, &c. Never, O never.

XII.

It ceased, the melancholy sound,
And silence sunk on all around.

The air was sad ; but sadder still

It fell on Marmion's ear,

And 'plain'd as if disgrace and ill,

And shameful death were near.

He drew his mantle past his face,

Between it and the band,

And rested with his head a space,

Reclining on his hand.

His thoughts I scan not ; but I ween,

That, could their import have been seen,

The meanest groom in all the hall,

That e'er tied courser to a stall,

Would scarce have wish'd to be their prey,

For Lutterward and Fontenaye,

XIII.

High minds, of native pride and force,

Most deeply feel thy pangs, Remorse !

Fear, for their scourge, mean villains have,
Thou art the torturer of the brave!

Yet fatal strength they boast, to steel
Their minds to bear the wounds they feel,
Even while they writhe beneath the smart
Of civil conflict in the heart.

For soon Lord Marmion raised his head,
And, smiling, to Fitz-Eustace said,—

“ Is it not strange, that, as ye sung,
Seem'd in mine ear a death-peal rung,
Such as in nunneries they toll
For some departing sister's soul?

Say, what may this portend?”—

Then first the Palmer silence broke,
(The live-long day he had not spoke,)

“ The death of a dear friend.”

XIV.

Marmion, whose steady heart and eye
Ne'er changed in worst extremity;

Marmion, whose soul could scantly brook,
Even from his King, a haughty look ;
Whose accent of command controul'd,
In camps, the boldest of the bold—
Thought, look, and utterance, fail'd him now,
Fall'n was his glance, and flush'd his brow :

For either in the tone,
Or something in the Palmer's look,
So full upon his conscience strook,
That answer he found none.

Thus oft it haps, that when within
They shrink at sense of secret sin,

A feather daunts the brave,
A fool's wild speech confounds the wise,
And proudest princes veil their eyes
Before their meanest slave.

XV.

Well might he falter !—By his aid
Was Constance Beverley betray'd ;

Not that he augur'd of the doom,
Which on the living closed the tomb :
But, tired to hear the desperate maid
Threaten by turns, beseech, upbraid ;
And wroth, because, in wild despair,
She practised on the life of Clare ;
Its fugitive the Church he gave,
Though not a victim, but a slave ;
And deem'd restraint in convent strange
Would hide her wrongs, and her revenge.
Himself, proud Henry's favourite peer,
Held Romish thunders idle fear,
Secure his pardon he might hold,
For some slight mulct of penance-gold.
Thus judging, he gave secret way,
When the stern priests surprised their prey :
His train but deem'd the favourite page
Was left behind, to spare his age ;
Or other, if they deem'd, none dared
To mutter what he thought and heard :

Woe to the vassal, who durst pry
Into Lord Marmion's privacy !

XVI.

His conscience slept—he deem'd her well,
And safe secured in distant cell ;
But, waken'd by her favourite lay,
And that strange Palmer's boding say,
That fell so ominous and drear,
Full on the object of his fear,
To aid remorse's venom'd throes,
Dark tales of convent-vengeance rose ;
And Constance, late betray'd and scorn'd,
All lovely on his soul return'd ;
Lovely as when, at treacherous call,
She left her convent's peaceful wall,
Crimson'd with shame, with terror mute,
Dreading alike escape, pursuit,
Till love, victorious o'er alarms,
Hid fears and blushes in his arms.

XVII.

“ Alas !” he thought, “ how changed that mien !
How changed these timid looks have been,
Since years of guilt and of disguise,
Have steel'd her brow, and arm'd her eyes !
No more of virgin terror speaks
The blood that mantles in her cheeks ;
Fierce, and unfeminine, are there,
Frenzy for joy, for grief despair ;
And I the cause—for whom were given
Her peace on earth, her hopes in heaven !—
Would,” thought he, as the picture grows,
“ I on its stalk had left the rose !
O why should man's success remove
The very charms that wake his love !—
Her convent's peaceful solitude
Is now a prison harsh and rude ;
And, pent within the narrow cell,
How will her spirit chafe and swell !
How brook the stern monastic laws !
The penance how—and I the cause !—

Vigil and scourge—perchance even worse!”
And twice he rose to cry “ To horse !”
And twice his sovereign’s mandate came,
Like damp upon a kindling flame ;
And twice he thought, “ Gave I not charge
She should be safe, though not at large ?
They durst not, for their island, shred
One golden ringlet from her head.”—

XVIII.

While thus in Marmion’s bosom strove
Repentance and reviving love,
Like whirlwinds, whose contending sway
I’ve seen Loch Vennachar obey,
Their Host the Palmer’s speech had heard
And, talkative, took up the word :—

“ Ay, reverend Pilgrim, you, who stray
From Scotland’s simple land away,

To visit realms afar,
Full often learn the art to know
Of future weal, or future woe,
By word, or sign, or star.

Yet might a knight his fortune hear,
If, knight-like, he despises fear,
Not far from hence ;—if fathers old
Aright our hamlet-legend told.”—
These broken words the menials move,
(For marvels still the vulgar love ;)
And Marmion giving license cold,
His tale the Host thus gladly told.

XIX.

The Host's Tale.

“ A clerk could tell what years have flown
Since Alexander fill'd our throne,
(Third monarch of that warlike name,)
And eke the time when here he came
To seek Sir Hugo, then our lord :
A braver never drew a sword ;
A wiser never, at the hour
Of midnight, spoke the word of power :
The same, whom ancient records call
The founder of the Goblin-Hall.

I would, Sir Knight, your longer stay
Gave you that cavern to survey.
Of lofty roof, and ample size,
Beneath the castle deep it lies :
To hew the living rock profound,
The floor to pave, the arch to round,
There never toil'd a mortal arm,
It all was wrought by word and charm ;
And I have heard my grandsire say,
That the wild clamour and affray
Of those dread artizans of hell,
Who labour'd under Hugo's spell,
Sounded as loud as ocean's war,
Among the caverns of Dunbar.

XX.

“ The King Lord Gifford's castle sought,
Deep-labouring with uncertain thought :
Even then he muster'd all his host,
To meet upon the western coast ;

For Norse and Danish gallies plied
Their oars within the Frith of Clyde.
There floated Haco's banner trim,
Above Norweyan warriors grim,
Savage of heart, and large of limb ;
Threatening both continent and isle,
Bute, Arran, Cunninghame, and Kyle.
Lord Gifford, deep beneath the ground,
Heard Alexander's bugle sound.
And tarried not his garb to change,
But, in his wizard habit strange,
Came forth,—a quaint and fearful sight !
His mantle lined with fox-skins white ;
His high and wrinkled forehead bore
A pointed cap, such as of yore
Clerks say that Pharaoh's Magi wore ;
His shoes were mark'd with cross and spell,
Upon his breast a pentacle ;
His zone, of virgin parchment thin,
Or, as some tell, of dead-man's skin,

Bore many a planetary sign,
Combust, and retrograde, and trine ;
And in his hand he held, prepared,
A naked sword without a guard.

XXI.

“ Dire dealings with the fiendish race
Had mark’d strange lines upon his face ;
Vigil and fast had worn him grim,
His eye-sight dazzled seem’d, and dim,
As one unused to upper day ;
Even his own menials with dismay
Beheld, Sir Knight, the griesly Sire,
In this unwonted wild attire ;
Unwonted,—for traditions run,
He seldom thus beheld the sun.
“ I know,” he said,—his voice was hoarse,
And broken seem’d its hollow force,—
“ I know the cause, although untold,
Why the King seeks his vassal’s hold :

Vainly from me my liege would know
His kingdom's future weal or woe ;
But yet, if strong his arm and heart,
His courage may do more than art.

XXII.

“ Of middle air the demons proud,
Who ride upon the racking cloud,
Can read, in fix'd or wandering star,
The issue of events afar,
But still their sullen aid withhold,
Save when by mightier force controul'd.
Such late I summon'd to my hall :
And though so potent was the call,
That scarce the deepest nook of hell
I deem'd a refuge from the spell,
Yet, obstinate in silence still,
The haughty demon mocks my skill.
But thou,—who little know'st thy might,
As born upon that blessed night,

When yawning graves, and dying groan,
Proclaim'd hell's empire overthrown,—
With untaught valour shalt compel
Response denied to magic spell.”—

“ Gramercy,” quoth our Monarch free,
“ Place him but front to front with me,
And, by this good and honour'd brand,
The gift of Cœur-de-Lion's hand,
Soothly I swear, that, tide what tide,
The demon shall a buffet bide.”—

His bearing bold the Wizard view'd,
And thus, well pleased, his speech renew'd.—

“ There spoke the blood of Malcolm !—mark :
Forth pacing hence, at midnight dark,
The rampart seek, whose circling crown
Crests the ascent of yonder down :
A southern entrance shalt thou find ;
There halt, and there thy bugle wind,
And trust thine elfin foe to see,
In guise of thy worst enemy :

Couch then thy lance, and spur thy steed—
Upon him ! and Saint George to speed !
If he go down, thou soon shalt know
Whate'er these airy sprites can show ;—
If thy heart fail thee in the strife,
I am no warrant for thy life.”—

XXIII.

“ Soon as the midnight bell did ring,
Alone, and arm'd, forth rode the King
To that old camp's deserted round :
Sir Knight, you well might mark the mound,
Left hand the town,—the Pictish race,
The trench, long since, in blood did trace ;
The moor around is brown and bare,
The space within is green and fair.
The spot our village children know,
For there the earliest wild-flowers grow ;
But woe betide the wandering wight,
That treads its circles in the night !

The breadth across, a bow-shot clear,
Gives ample space for full career ;
Opposed to the four points of heaven,
By four deep gaps are entrance given.
The southernmost our Monarch past,
Halted, and blew a gallant blast ;
And on the north, within the ring,
Appear'd the form of England's king,
Who then, a thousand leagues afar,
In Palestine waged holy war :
Yet arms like England's did he wield,
Alike the leopards in the shield,
Alike his Syrian courser's frame,
The rider's length of limb the same :
Long afterwards did Scotland know,
Fell Edward* was her deadliest foe.

XXIV.

“ The vision made our Monarch start,
But soon he mann'd his noble heart,

* Edward I., surnamed Longshanks.

And in the first career they ran,
The Elfin Knight fell, horse and man ;
Yet did a splinter of his lance
Through Alexander's visor glance,
And razed the skin—a puny wound.
The King, light leaping to the ground,
With naked blade his phantom foe
Compell'd the future war to show.

Of Largs he saw the glorious plain,
Where still gigantic bones remain,
Memorial of the Danish war ;
Himself he saw, amid the field,
On high his brandish'd war-axe wield,
And strike proud Haco from his car,
While all around the shadowy kings
Denmark's grim ravens cower'd their wings.
'Tis said, that, in that awful night,
Remoter visions met his sight,
Fore-shewing future conquests far,
When our sons' sons wage northern war ;

A royal city, tower and spire,
Redden'd the midnight sky with fire,
And shouting crews her navy bore,
Triumphant to the victor shore.
Such signs may learned clerks explain,
They pass the wit of simple swain.

XXV.

“ The joyful King turn'd home again,
Headed his host, and quell'd the Dane ;
But yearly, when return'd the night
Of his strange combat with the sprite,

His wound must bleed and smart ;
Lord Gifford then would gibing say,
“ Bold as ye were, my liege, ye pay
The penance of your start.”

Long since, beneath Dunfermline's nave,
King Alexander fills his grave,
Our Lady give him rest !

Yet still the nightly spear and shield

The Elfin Warrior doth wield,

Upon the brown hill's breast ;

And many a knight hath proved his chance,

In the charm'd ring to break a lance,

But all have foully sped ;

Save two, as legends tell, and they

Were Wallace wight, and Gilbert Hay.—

Gentles, my tale is said.”—

XXVI.

The quaighs* were deep, the liquor strong,

And on the tale the yeoman-throng

Had made a comment sage and long,

But Marmion gave a sign ;

And, with their lord, the squires retire ;

The rest, around the hostel fire,

Their drowsy limbs recline ;

* A wooden cup, composed of staves hooped together.

For pillow, underneath each head,
The quiver and the targe were laid.
Deep slumbering on the hostel floor,
Oppress'd with toil and ale, they snore :
The dying flame, in fitful change,
Threw on the group its shadows strange.

XXVII.

Apart, and nestling in the hay
Of a waste loft, Fitz-Eustace lay ;
Scarce, by the pale moonlight, were seen
The foldings of his mantle green :
Lightly he dreamt, as youth will dream,
Of sport by thicket, or by stream,
Of hawk or hound, of ring or glove,
Or, lighter yet, of lady's love.
A cautious tread his slumber broke,
And, close beside him, when he woke,
In moonbeam half, and half in gloom,
Stood a tall form, with nodding plume ;

But, ere his dagger Eustace drew,
His master Marmion's voice he knew.

XXVIII.

—“Fitz-Eustace! rise,—I cannot rest;
Yon churl's wild legend haunts my breast,
And graver thoughts have chafed my mood:
The air must cool my feverish blood;
And fain would I ride forth, to see
The scene of elfin chivalry.
Arise, and saddle me my steed;
And, gentle Eustace, take good heed
Thou dost not rouse these drowsy slaves;
I would not, that the prating knaves
Had cause for saying, o'er their ale,
That I could credit such a tale.”—
Then softly down the steps they slid,
Eustace the stable door undid,
And, darkling, Marmion's steed array'd,
While, whispering, thus the Baron said:—

XXIX.

“ Did’st never, good my youth, hear tell,

That on the hour when I was born,

St George, who graced my sire’s chapelle,

Down from his steed of marble fell,

A weary wight forlorn ?

The flattering chaplains all agree,

The champion left his steed to me.

I would, the omen’s truth to show,

That I could meet this Elfin Foe !

Blithe would I battle, for the right

To ask one question at the sprite :—

Vain thought ! for elves, if elves there be,

An empty race, by fount or sea,

To dashing waters dance and sing,

Or round the green oak wheel their ring.”—

Thus speaking, he his steed bestrode,

And from the hostel slowly rode.

XXX.

Fitz-Eustace follow'd him abroad,
And mark'd him pace the village road,
And listen'd to his horse's tramp,
Till, by the lessening sound,
He judged that of the Pictish camp
Lord Marmion sought the round.
Wonder it seem'd, in the squire's eyes,
That one, so wary held, and wise,—
Of whom 'twas said, he scarce received
For gospel, what the church believed,—
Should, stirr'd by idle tale,
Ride forth in silence of the night,
As hoping half to meet a sprite,
Array'd in plate and mail.
For little did Fitz-Eustace know,
That passions, in contending flow,
Unfix the strongest mind ;
Wearied from doubt to doubt to flee,
We welcome fond credulity,
Guide confident, though blind.

XXXI.

Little for this Fitz-Eustace cared,
But, patient, waited till he heard,
At distance, prick'd to utmost speed,
The foot-tramp of a flying steed,
Come town-ward rushing on :
First, dead, as if on turf it trode,
Then, clattering on the village road,—
In other pace than forth he yode,*
Return'd Lord Marmion.

Down hastily he sprung from selle,
And, in his haste, well nigh he fell ;
To the squire's hand the rein he threw
And spoke no word as he withdrew ;
But yet the moonlight did betray,
The falcon-crest was soil'd with clay ;
And plainly might Fitz-Eustace see,
By stains upon the charger's knee,
And his left side, that on the moor
He had not kept his footing sure.

* Used by old poets for *went*.

Long musing on these wondrous signs,
At length to rest the squire reclines,
Broken and short ; for still, between,
Would dreams of terror intervene :
Eustace did ne'er so blithely mark
The first notes of the morning lark.

END OF CANTO THIRD.

MARMION.

Introduction to Canto Fourth.

NOTES

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TO

JAMES SKENE, Esq.

Ashestiel, Ettrick Forest.

AN ancient Minstrel sagely said,
“ Where is the life which late we led ? ” —
That motley clown in Arden wood,
Whom humorous Jaques with envy view'd,
Not even that clown could amplify,
On this trite text, so long as I.
Eleven years we now may tell,
Since we have known each other well ;
Since, riding side by side, our hand
First drew the voluntary brand ;

And sure, through many a varied scene,
Unkindness never came between.
Away these winged years have flown,
To join the mass of ages gone ;
And though deep mark'd, like all below,
With chequer'd shades of joy and woe ;
Though thou o'er realms and seas hast ranged,
Mark'd cities lost, and empires changed,
While here, at home, my narrower ken
Somewhat of manner saw, and men ;
Though varying wishes, hopes, and fears,
Fever'd the progress of these years,
Yet now, days, weeks, and months, but seem
The recollection of a dream,
So still we glide down to the sea
Of fathomless eternity.

Even now it scarcely seems a day,
Since first I tuned this idle lay ;
A task so often thrown aside,
When leisure graver cares denied,

That now, November's dreary gale,
Whose voice inspired my opening tale,
That same November gale once more
Whirls the dry leaves on Yarrow shore.
Their vex'd boughs streaming to the sky,
Once more our naked birches sigh,
And Blackhouse heights, and Ettrick Pen,
Have don'd their wintry shrouds again ;
And mountain dark, and flooded mead,
Bid us forsake the banks of Tweed.
Earlier than wont along the sky,
Mix'd with the rack, the snow-mists fly ;
The shepherd, who, in summer sun,
Has something of our envy won,
As thou with pencil, I with pen,
The features traced of hill and glen ;—
He who, outstretch'd the livelong day,
At ease among the heath-flowers lay,
View'd the light clouds with vacant look,
Or slumber'd o'er his tatter'd book,

Or idly busied him to guide
His angle o'er the lessen'd tide ;—
At midnight now, the snowy plain
Finds sterner labour for the swain.

When red hath set the beamless sun,
Through heavy vapours dank and dun ;
When the tired ploughman, dry and warm,
Hears, half asleep, the rising storm
Hurling the hail, and sleeted rain,
Against the casement's tinkling pane ;
The sounds that drive wild deer, and fox,
To shelter in the brake and rocks,
Are warnings which the shepherd ask
To dismal and to dangerous task.
Oft he looks forth, and hopes, in vain,
The blast may sink in mellowing rain ;
Till, dark above, and white below,
Decided drives the flaky snow,
And forth the hardy swain must go.

Long, with dejected look and whine,
To leave the hearth his dogs repine ;
Whistling and cheering them to aid,
Around his back he wreathes the plaid :
His flock he gathers, and he guides
To open downs, and mountain-sides,
Where fiercest though the tempest blow,
Least deeply lies the drift below.
The blast, that whistles o'er the fells,
Stiffens his locks to icicles ;
Oft he looks back, while streaming far,
His cottage window seems a star,—
Loses its feeble gleam,—and then
Turns patient to the blast again,
And, facing to the tempest's sweep,
Drives through the gloom his lagging sheep.
If fails his heart, if his limbs fail,
Benumbing death is in the gale ;
His paths, his landmarks, all unknown,
Close to the hut, no more his own,

Close to the aid he sought in vain,
The morn may find the stiffen'd swain :
The widow sees, at dawning pale,
His orphans raise their feeble wail ;
And, close beside him, in the snow,
Poor Yarrow, partner of their woe,
Couches upon his master's breast,
And licks his cheek, to break his rest.

Who envies now the shepherd's lot,
His healthy fare, his rural cot,
His summer couch by greenwood tree,
His rustic kirk's* loud revelry,
His native hill-notes, tuned on high,
To Marion of the blithesome eye ;
His crook, his srip, his oaten reed,
And all Arcadia's golden creed ?

Changes not so with us, my Skene,
Of human life the varying scene ?

* The Scottish Harvest-home.

Our youthful summer oft we see
Dance by on wings of game and glee,
While the dark storm reserves its rage,
Against the winter of our age :

As he, the ancient Chief of Troy,
His manhood spent in peace and joy ;
But Grecian fires, and loud alarms,
Call'd ancient Priam forth to arms.

Then happy those,—since each must drain
His share of pleasure, share of pain,
Then happy those, beloved of heaven,
To whom the mingled cup is given ;
Whose lenient sorrows find relief,
Whose joys are chasten'd by their grief.
And such a lot, my Skene, was thine,
When thou of late wert doom'd to twine,—
Just when thy bridal hour was by,—
The cypress with the myrtle tie.
Just on thy bride her Sire had smiled,
And bless'd the union of his child,

When love must change its joyous cheer,
And wipe affection's filial tear.
Nor did the actions next his end,
Speak more the father than the friend :
Scarce had lamented Forbes paid
The tribute to his Minstrel's shade ;
The tale of friendship scarce was told,
Ere the narrator's heart was cold—
Far may we search before we find
A heart so manly and so kind !
But not around his honour'd urn,
Shall friends alone and kindred mourn ;
The thousand eyes his care had dried,
Pour at his name a bitter tide ;
And frequent falls the grateful dew,
For benefits the world ne'er knew.
If mortal charity dare claim
The Almighty's attributed name,
Inscribe above his mouldering clay,
“ The widow's shield, the orphan's stay.”

Nor, though it wake thy sorrow, deem
My verse intrudes on this sad theme ;
For sacred was the pen that wrote,
“ Thy father’s friend forget thou not :”
And grateful title may I plead,
For many a kindly word and deed,
To bring my tribute to his grave :—
'Tis little—but 'tis all I have.

To thee, perchance, this rambling strain
Recalls our summer walks again ;
When, doing nought,—and, to speak true,
Not anxious to find aught to do,—
The wild unbounded hills we ranged,
While oft our talk its topic changed,
And, desultory as our way,
Ranged, unconfined, from grave to gay.
Even when it flagg'd, as oft will chance,
No effort made to break its trance,
We could right pleasantly pursue
Our sports in social silence too ;

Thou gravely labouring to pourtray
The blighted oak's fantastic spray ;
I spelling o'er, with much delight,
The legend of that antique knight,
Tirante by name, yclep'd the White.
At either's feet a trusty squire,
Pandour and Camp, with eyes of fire,
Jealous, each other's motions view'd,
And scarce suppress'd their ancient feud.
The laverock whistled from the cloud ;
The stream was lively, but not loud ;
From the white thorn the May-flower shed
Its dewy fragrance round our head :
Not Ariel lived more merrily
Under the blossom'd bough, than we.

And blithesome nights, too, have been ours,
When Winter stript the summer's bowers.
Careless we heard, what now I hear,
The wild blast sighing deep and drear,

When fires were bright, and lamps beam'd gay,
And ladies tuned the lovely lay ;
And he was held a laggard soul,
Who shunn'd to quaff the sparkling bowl.
Then he, whose absence we deplore,
Who breathes the gales of Devon's shore,
The longer miss'd, bewail'd the more ;
And thou, and I, and dear-loved R——,
And one whose name I may not say,—
For not Mimosa's tender tree
Shrinks sooner from the touch than he,—
In merry chorus well combined,
With laughter drown'd the whistling wind.
Mirth was within ; and Care, without,
Might gnaw her nails to hear our shout.
Not but amid the buxom scene
Some grave discourse might intervene—
Of the good horse that bore him best,
His shoulder, hoof, and arching crest :

For, like mad Tom's,* our chiefest care,
Was horse to ride, and weapon wear.
Such nights we've had ; and, though the game
Of manhood be more sober tame,
And though the field-day, or the drill,
Seem less important now—yet still
Such may we hope to share again.
The sprightly thought inspires my strain !
And mark, how, like a horseman true,
Lord Marmion's march I thus renew.

* See *King Lear*.

MARMION.

CANTO FOURTH.

The Camp,

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ANNALS

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1857

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MARMION.

CANTO FOURTH.

The Camp.

I.

EUSTACE, I said, did blithely mark
The first notes of the merry lark.
The lark sung shrill, the cock he crew,
And loudly Marmion's bugles blew,
And with their light and lively call,
Brought groom and yeoman to the stall.
Whistling they came, and free of heart,
But soon their mood was changed ;
Complaint was heard on every part,
Of something disarranged.

Some clamour'd loud for armour lost ;
Some brawl'd and wrangled with the host ;
“ By Becket's bones,” cried one, “ I fear,
That some false Scot has stolen my spear !”
Young Blount, Lord Marmion's second squire,
Found his steed wet with sweat and mire ;
Although the rated horse-boy sware,
Last night he dress'd him sleek and fair.
While chafed the impatient squire like thunder,
Old Hubert skouts, in fear and wonder,—
“ Help, gentle Blount ! help, comrades all !
Bevis lies dying in his stall :
To Marmion who the plight dare tell,
Of the good steed he loves so well ?”—
Gaping for fear and ruth, they saw
The charger panting on his straw ;
Till one, who would seem wisest, cried,—
“ What else but evil could betide,
With that cursed Palmer for our guide ?

Better we had through mire and bush
Been lantern-led by Friar Rush." *

II.

Fitz-Eustace, who the cause but guess'd,
Nor wholly understood,
His comrades' clamorous complaints suppress'd ;
He knew Lord Marmion's mood.
Him, ere he issued forth, he sought,
And found deep plunged in gloomy thought,
And did his tale display
Simply, as if he knew of nought
To cause such disarray.
Lord Marmion gave attention cold,
Nor marvell'd at the wonders told,—
Pass'd them as accidents of course,
And bade his clarions sound to horse.

* *Alias Will o' the Wisp.*—See Note.

III.

Young Henry Blount, meanwhile, the cost
Had reckon'd with their Scottish host ;
And, as the charge he cast and paid,
“ Ill thou deserv'st thy hire,” he said ;
“ Dost see, thou knave, my horse's plight ?
Fairies have ridden him all the night,
And left him in a foam !

I trust, that soon a conjuring band,
With English cross, and blazing brand,
Shall drive the devils from this land,
To their infernal home :
For in this haunted den, I trow,
All night they trampled too and fro.”—
The laughing host look'd on the hire,—
“ Gramercy, gentle southern squire,
And if thou com'st among the rest,
With Scottish broad-sword to be blest,
Sharp be the brand, and sure the blow,
And short the pang to undergo.”—

Here stay'd their talk,—for Marmion
Gave now the signal to set on.
The Palmer shewing forth the way,
They journey'd all the morning day.

IV.

The green-sward way was smooth and good,
Through Humbie's and through Saltoun's wood ;
A forest glade, which, varying still,
Here gave a view of dale and hill,
There narrower closed, till over head
A vaulted screen the branches made.
“ A pleasant path,” Fitz-Eustace said ;
“ Such as where errant-knights might see
Adventures of high chivalry ;
Might meet some damsel flying fast,
With hair unbound, and looks aghast ;
And smooth and level course were here,
In her defence to break a spear.
Here, too, are twilight nooks and dells ;
And oft, in such, the story tells,

The damsel kind, from danger freed,
Did grateful pay her champion's meed."—
He spoke to cheer Lord Marmion's mind ;
Perchance to shew his lore design'd ;
For Eustace much had pored
Upon a huge romantic tome,
In the hall-window of his home,
Imprinted at the antique dome
Of Caxton, or De Worde.
Therefore he spoke,—but spoke in vain,
For Marmion answer'd nought again.

V.

Now sudden, distant trumpets shrill,
In notes prolong'd by wood and hill,
Were heard to echo far ;
Each ready archer grasp'd his bow,
But by the flourish soon they know,
They breathed no point of war.
Yet cautious, as in foeman's land,
Lord Marmion's order speeds the band

Some opener ground to gain ;
And scarce a furlong had they rode,
When thinner trees, receding, show'd
A little woodland plain.
Just in that advantageous glade,
The halting troop a line had made,
As forth from the opposing shade
Issued a gallant train.

VI.

First came the trumpets, at whose clang
So late the forest echoes rang ;
On prancing steeds they forward press'd,
With scarlet mantle, azure vest ;
Each at his trump a banner wore,
Which Scotland's Royal scutcheon bore :
Heralds and pursuivants, by name
Bute, Islay, Marchmount, Rothsay, came,
In painted tabards, proudly showing
Gules, Argent, Or, and Azure glowing,

Attendant on a King-at-arms,
Whose hand the armorial truncheon held
That feudal strife had often quell'd,
When wildest its alarms.

VII.

He was a man of middle age ;
In aspect manly, grave, and sage,
As on king's errand come ;
But in the glances of his eye,
A penetrating, keen, and sly
Expression found its home ;
The flash of that satiric rage,
Which, bursting on the early stage,
Branded the vices of the age,
And broke the keys of Rome.
On milk-white palfrey forth he paced ;
His cap of maintenance was graced
With the proud heron-plume.

From his steed's shoulder, loin, and breast,
Silk housings swept the ground,
With Scotland's arms, device, and crest,
Embroider'd round and round.

The double tressure might you see,
First by Achaius borne,
The thistle, and the fleur-de-lis,
And gallant unicorn.

So bright the king's armorial coat,
That scarce the dazzled eye could note,
In living colours, blazon'd brave,
The Lion, which his title gave.

A train, which well beseem'd his state,
But all unarm'd, around him wait.

Still is thy name in high account,
And still thy verse has charms,
Sir David Lindesay of the Mount,
Lord Lion King-at-arms !

VIII.

Down from his horse did Marmion spring,
Soon as he saw the Lion-King ;
For well the stately Baron knew
To him such courtesy was due,
Whom royal James himself had crown'd,
And on his temples placed the round
Of Scotland's ancient diadem ;
And wet his brow with hallow'd wine,
And on his finger given to shine
The emblematic gem.

Their mutual greetings duly made,
The Lion thus his message said :—
“ Though Scotland's King hath deeply swore
Ne'er to knit faith with Henry more,
And strictly hath forbid resort
From England to his royal court ;
Yet, for he knows Lord Marmion's name,
And honours much his warlike fame,
My liege hath deem'd it shame, and lack
Of courtesy, to turn him back ;

And, by his order, I, your guide,
Must lodging fit and fair provide,
Till finds King James meet time to see
The flower of English chivalry."—

IX.

Though inly chafed at this delay,
Lord Marmion bears it as he may.
The Palmer, his mysterious guide,
Beholding thus his place supplied,
Sought to take leave in vain :
Strict was the Lion-King's command,
That none who rode in Marmion's band
Should sever from the train :
“ England has here enow of spies
In Lady Heron's witching eyes ;”
To Marchmount thus, apart, he said,
But fair pretext to Marmion made.
The right-hand path they now decline,
And trace against the stream the Tyne.

X.

At length up that wild dale they wind,
Where Crichtoun-Castle crowns the bank ;
For there the Lion's care assign'd
A lodging meet for Marmion's rank.
That Castle rises on the steep
Of the green vale of Tyne ;
And, far beneath, where slow they creep
From pool to eddy, dark and deep,
Where alders moist, and willows weep,
You hear her streams repine.
The towers in different ages rose ;
Their various architecture shows
The builders' various hands ;
A mighty mass, that could oppose,
When deadliest hatred fired its foes,
The vengeful Douglas bands.

XI.

Crichtoun ! though now thy miry court
But pens the lazy steer and sheep,
Thy turrets rude and totter'd Keep

Have been the minstrel's loved resort.
Oft have I traced, within thy fort,
 Of mouldering shields the mystic sense,
 Scutcheons of honour, or pretence,
Quarter'd in old armorial sort,
 Remains of rude magnificence.
Nor wholly yet hath time defaced
 Thy lordly gallery fair ;
Nor yet the stony cord unbraced,
Whose twisted notes, with roses laced,
 Adorn thy ruin'd stair.
Still rises unimpair'd, below,
The court-yard's grateful portico ;
Above its cornice, row and row,
Of fair hewn facets richly show
 Their pointed diamond form,
Though there but houseless cattle go,
 To shield them from the storm.
And, shuddering, still may we explore,
 Where oft whilome were captives pent,

The darkness of thy Massy More ;*
Or, from thy grass-grown battlement,
May trace, in undulating line,
The sluggish mazes of the Tyne.

XII.

Another aspect Crichtoun show'd,
As through its portal Marmion rode ;
But yet 'twas melancholy state
Received him at the outer gate ;
For none were in the castle then,
But women, boys, or aged men.
With eyes scarce dried, the sorrowing dame,
To welcome noble Marmion, came ;
Her son, a stripling twelve years old,
Proffer'd the Baron's rein to hold ;
For each man that could draw a sword
Had march'd that morning with their lord,

* The pit, or prison vault.—See Note.

Earl Adam Hepburn,—he who died
On Flodden by his sovereign's side.
Long may his lady look in vain !
She ne'er shall see his gallant train
Come sweeping back through Crichtoun-Dean.
'Twas a brave race, before the name
Of hated Bothwell stain'd their fame.

XIII.

And here two days did Marmion rest,
With every rite that honour claims,
Attended as the king's own guest ;
Such the command of royal James,
Who marshall'd then his land's array,
Upon the Borough-moor that lay.
Perchance he would not foeman's eye
Upon his gathering host should pry,
Till full prepared was every band
To march against the English land.
Here while they dwelt, did Lindesay's wit
Oft cheer the Baron's moodier fit :

And, in his turn, he knew to prize
Lord Marmion's powerful mind, and wise,—
Train'd in the lore of Rome and Greece,
And policies of war and peace.

XIV.

It chanced, as fell the second night,
That on the battlements they walk'd,
And, by the slowly fading light,
Of varying topics talk'd ;
And, unaware, the Herald-bard
Said, Marmion might his toil have spared,
In travelling so far ;
For that a messenger from Heaven
In vain to James had counsel given
Against the English war :
And, closer question'd, thus he told
A tale, which chronicles of old
In Scottish story have enroll'd :

XV.

Sir David Lindesay's Tale.

“ Of all the palaces so fair,
Built for the royal dwelling,
In Scotland, far beyond compare
Linlithgow is excelling ;
And in its park, in jovial June,
How sweet the merry linnet's tune,
How blithe the blackbird's lay !
The wild buck bells* from ferny brake,
The coot dives merry on the lake,
The saddest heart might pleasure take
To see all nature gay.
But June is to our Sovereign dear
The heaviest month in all the year :
Too well his cause of grief you know,—
June saw his father's overthrow.
Woe to the traitors, who could bring

* An ancient word for the cry of deer.—See Note.

The princely boy against his king !
Still in his conscience burns the sting.
In offices as strict as Lent,
King James's June is ever spent.

XVI.

“ When last this ruthful month was come,
And in Linlithgow's holy dome
 The King, as wont, was praying ;
While, for his royal father's soul,
The chaunters sung, the bells did toll,
 The Bishop mass was saying—
For now the year brought round again
The day the luckless king was slain—
 In Katharine's aisle the Monarch knelt,
 With sackcloth-shirt, and iron belt,
 And eyes with sorrow streaming ;
Around him, in their stalls of state,
The Thistle's Knight-Companions sate,
 Their banners o'er them beaming.

I too was there, and, sooth to tell,
Bedeafen'd with the jangling knell,
Was watching where the sunbeams fell,
Through the stain'd casement gleaming ;
But while I mark'd what next befel,
It seem'd as I were dreaming.

Stepp'd from the crowd a ghostly wight,
In azure gown, with cincture white ;
His forehead bald, his head was bare,
Down hung at length his yellow hair.—
Now, mock me not, when, good my lord,
I pledge to you my knightly word,
That, when I saw his placid grace,
His simple majesty of face,
His solemn bearing, and his pace

So stately gliding on,—
Seem'd to me ne'er did limner paint
So just an image of the Saint,
Who propp'd the Virgin in her faint,—
The loved Apostle John.

XVII.

“ He stepp’d before the Monarch’s chair,
And stood with rustic plainness there,
 And little reverence made ;
Nor head, nor body, bow’d nor bent,
But on the desk his arm he leant,
 And words like these he said,
In a low voice,—but never tone
So thrill’d through vein, and nerve, and bone :—
 ‘ My Mother sent me from afar,
 Sir King, to warn thee not to war,—
 Woe waits on thine array ;
If war thou wilt, of woman fair,
Her witching wiles, and wanton snare,
James Stuart, doubly warn’d, beware :
 God keep thee as he may !
The wondering Monarch seem’d to seek
 For answer, and found none :
And when he raised his head to speak,
 The monitor was gone.

The Marshal and myself had cast
To stop him as he outward past ;
But lighter than the whirlwind's blast,
 He vanish'd from our eyes,
Like sunbeam on the billow cast,
 That glances but, and dies."—

XVIII.

While Lindesay told this marvel strange,
 The twilight was so pale,
He mark'd not Marmion's colour change,
 While listening to the tale :
But, after a suspended pause,
The Baron spoke :—" Of Nature's laws
 So strong I held the force,
That never super-human cause
 Could ere controul their course ;
And, three days since, had judged your aim
Was but to make your guest your game.
But I have seen, since past the Tweed,
What much has changed my sceptic creed,

And made me credit aught."—He staid,
And seem'd to wish his words unsaid :
But, by that strong emotion press'd,
Which prompts us to unload our breast,
Even when discovery's pain,
To Lindesay did at length unfold
The tale his village host had told,
At Gifford, to his train.

Nought of the Palmer says he there,
And nought of Constance, or of Clare :
The thoughts, which broke his sleep, he seems
To mention but as feverish dreams.

XIX.

"In vain," said he, "to rest I spread
My burning limbs, and couch'd my head :
Fantastic thoughts return'd ;
And, by their wild dominion led,
My heart within me burn'd.
So sore was the delirious goad,
I took my steed, and forth I rode,

And, as the moon shone bright and cold,
Soon reach'd the camp upon the wold.
The southern entrance I pass'd through,
And halted, and my bugle blew.
Methought an answer met my ear,—
Yet was the blast so low and drear,
So hollow, and so faintly blown,
It might be echo of my own.

XX.

“ Thus judging, for a little space
I listen'd, ere I left the place ;
But scarce could trust my eyes,
Nor yet can think they served me true,
When sudden in the ring I view,
In form distinct of shape and hue,
A mounted champion rise.—
I've fought, Lord-Lion, many a day,
In single fight, and mix'd affray,
And ever, I myself may say,

Have borne me as a knight ;
But when this unexpected foe
Seem'd starting from the gulph below,—
I care not though the truth I show,
I trembled with affright ;
And as I placed in rest my spear,
My hand so shook for very fear,
I scarce could couch it right.

XXI.

“ Why need my tongue the issue tell ?
We ran our course,—my charger fell ;—
What could he 'gainst the shock of hell ?—
I roll'd upon the plain.
High o'er my head, with threatening hand,
The spectre shook his naked brand,—
Yet did the worst remain :
My dazzled eyes I upward cast,—
Not opening hell itself could blast
Their sight, like what I saw !

Full on his face the moonbeam strook,—

A face could never be mistook !

I knew the stern vindictive look,

And held my breath for awe.

I saw the face of one who, fled

To foreign climes, has long been dead,—

I well believe the last ;

For ne'er, from visor raised, did stare

A human warrior, with a glare

So grimly and so ghast.

Thrice o'er my head he shook the blade :

But when to good Saint George I pray'd,

(The first time e'er I ask'd his aid,)

He plunged it in the sheath ;

And, on his courser mounting light,

He seem'd to vanish from my sight :

The moonbeam droop'd, and deepest night

Sunk down upon the heath.—

'Twere long to tell what cause I have
 To know his face that met me there,
 Call'd by his hatred from the grave
 To cumber upper air ;
 Dead, or alive, good cause had he
 To be my mortal enemy."—

XXII.

Marvell'd Sir David of the Mount ;
 Then, learn'd in story, 'gan recount
 Such chance had happ'd of old,
 When once near Norham, there did fight
 A spectre fell of fiendish might,
 In likeness of a Scottish knight,
 With' Brian Bulmer bold,
 And train'd him nigh to disallow
 The aid of his baptismal vow.

“ And such a phantom, too, 'tis said,
 With Highland broad-sword, targe, and plaid,
 And fingers red with gore,

Is seen in Rothiemurchus glade,
Or where the sable pine-trees shade
Dark Tomantoul, and Achnaslaid,
Dromouchty, or Glenmore.*

And yet, whate'er such legends say,
Of warlike demon, host, or fay,

On mountain, moor, or plain,
Spotless in faith, in bosom bold,
True son of chivalry should hold

These midnight terrors vain ;
For seldom have such spirits power
To harm, save in the evil hour,
When guilt we meditate within,
Or harbour unrepented sin."—

Lord Marmion turn'd him half aside,
And twice to clear his voice he tried,

Then press'd Sir David's hand,—
But nought, at length, in answer said ;
And here their farther converse staid,

* See the traditions concerning Bulmer, and the spectre called *Lhamdearg*, or Bloody-hand, in a note on Canto III.

Each ordering that his band
Should bowne them with the rising day,
To Scotland's camp to take their way,—
Such was the King's command.

XXIII.

Early they took Dun-Edin's road,
And I could trace each step they trode ;
Hill, brook, nor dell, nor rock, nor stone,
Lies on the path to me unknown.
Much might it boast of storied lore ;
But, passing such digression o'er,
Suffice it that their route was laid
Across the furzy hills of Braid.
They pass'd the glen, and scanty rill,
And climb'd the opposing bank, until
They gain'd the top of Blackford Hill.

XXIV.

Blackford ! on whose uncultured breast,
Among the broom, and thorn, and whin,

A truant-boy, I sought the nest,
Or listed, as I lay at rest,
While rose, in breezes thin,
The murmur of the city crowd,
And, from his steeple jangling loud,
Saint Giles's mingling din—
Now from the summit to the plain,
Waves all the hill with yellow grain ;
And o'er the landscape as I look,
Nought do I see unchanged remain,
Save the rude cliffs and chiming brook.
To me they make a heavy moan
Of early friendships past and gone.

XXV.

But different far the change has been,
Since Marmion, from the crown
Of Blackford, saw that martial scene
Upon the bent so brown :
Thousand pavilions, white as snow,
Spread all the Borough-moor below,

Upland, and dale, and down ;—
A thousand did I say ? I wéen,
Thousands on thousands there were seen,
That chequer'd all the heath between
The streamlet and the town ;
In crossing ranks extending far,
Forming a camp irregular ;
Oft giving way, where still there stood
Some reliques of the old oak wood,
That darkly huge did intervene,
And tamed the glaring white with green :
In these extended lines there lay
A martial kingdom's vast array.

XXVI.

For from Hebudes, dark with rain,
To eastern Lodon's fertile plain,
And from the southern Redswire edge,
To farthest Rosse's rocky ledge ;
From west to east, from south to north,
Scotland sent all her warriors forth.

Marmion might hear the mingled hum
Of myriads up the mountain come ;
The horses' tramp, and tingling clank,
Where chiefs review'd their vassal rank,
 And charger's shrilling neigh ;
And see the shifting lines advance,
While frequent flash'd, from shield and lance,
 The sun's reflected ray.

XXVII.

Thin curling in the morning air,
The wreaths of failing smoke declare
To embers now the brands decay'd,
Where the night-watch their fires had made.
They saw, slow rolling on the plain,
Full many a baggage-cart and wain,
And dire artillery's clumsy car,
By sluggish oxen tugg'd to war ;
And there were Borthwick's Sisters Seven,*
And culverins which France had given.

* Seven culverins so called, cast by one Borthwick.

Ill-omen'd gift ! the guns remain
The conqueror's spoil on Flodden plain.

XXVIII.

Nor mark'd they less, where in the air
A thousand streamers flaunted fair ;
Various in shape, device, and hue,
Green, sanguine, purple, red, and blue,
Broad, narrow, swallow-tail'd, and square,
Scroll, pennon, pensil,* there
O'er the pavilions flew.

Highest and midmost, was descried
The royal banner floating wide :

The staff, a pine-tree strong and straight,
Pitch'd deeply in a massive stone,
Which still in memory is shown,
Yet bent beneath the standard's weight
Whene'er the western wind unroll'd,

* Each of these feudal ensigns intimated the different rank of those entitled to display them.

With toil, the huge and cumbrous fold,
And gave to view the dazzling field,
Where, in proud Scotland's royal shield,
The ruddy Lion ramp'd in gold.

XXIX.

Lord Marmion view'd the landscape bright,—
He view'd it with a chief's delight,—
Until within him burn'd his heart,
And lightning from his eye did part,
As on the battle-day ;
Such glance did falcon never dart,
When stooping on his prey.
“ Oh ! well, Lord-Lion, hast thou said,
Thy king from warfare to dissuade
Were but a vain essay ;
For, by Saint George, were that host mine,
Not power infernal, nor divine,
Should once to peace my soul incline,
Till I had dimm'd their armour's shine,

In glorious battle-fray !"—
Answer'd the Bard, of milder mood ;
" Fair is the sight,—and yet 'twere good,
That kings would think withal,
When peace and wealth their land has bless'd,
'Tis better to sit still at rest,
Than rise, perchance to fall."—

XXX.

Still on the spot Lord Marmion stay'd,
For fairer scene he ne'er survey'd.

When sated with the martial show
That peopled all the plain below,
The wandering eye could o'er it go,
And mark the distant city glow
With gloomy splendour red ;
For on the smoke-wreaths, huge and slow,
That round her sable turrets flow,
The morning beams were shed,
And tinged them with a lustre proud,
Like that which streaks a thunder-cloud.

Such dusky grandeur clothed the height,

Where the huge castle holds its state,

And all the steep slope down,

Whose ridgy back heaves to the sky.

Piled deep and massy, close and high,

Mine own romantic town !

But northward far, with purer blaze,

On Ochil mountains fell the rays,

And as each heathy top they kiss'd,

It gleam'd a purple amethyst.

Yonder the shores of Fife you saw ;

Here Preston-Bay, and Berwick-Law ;

And, broad between them roll'd,

The gallant Frith the eye might note,

Whose islands on its bosom float,

Like emeralds chased in gold.

Fitz-Eustace' heart felt closely pent ;

As if to give his rapture vent,

The spur he to his charger lent,

And raised his bridle-hand,

And making demi-volte in air,
Cried, "Where's the coward that would not dare
To fight for such a land!"—
The Lindesay smiled his joy to see ;
Nor Marmion's frown repress'd his glee.

XXXI.

Thus while they look'd, a flourish proud,
Where mingled trump, and clarion loud,
And fife, and kettle-drum,
And sackbut deep, and psaltery,
And war-pipe with discordant cry,
And cymbal clattering to the sky,
Making wild music bold and high,
Did up the mountain come ;
The whilst the bells, with distant chime,
Merrily told the hour of prime,
And thus the Lindesay spoke :—
" Thus clamour still the war-notes when
The king to mass his way has ta'en,

Or to Saint Catherine's of Sienne,

Or chapel of Saint Rocque.

To you they speak of martial fame ;

But me remind of peaceful game,

When blither was their cheer,

Thrilling in Falkland-woods the air,

In signal none his steed should spare,

But strive which foremost might repair,

To the downfall of the deer.

XXXII.

“ Nor less,” he said,—“ when looking forth,

I view yon Empress of the North

Sit on her hilly throne ;

Her palace's imperial bowers,

Her castle, proof to hostile powers,

Her stately halls and holy towers—

Nor less,” he said, “ I moan,

To think what woe mischance may bring,

And how these merry bells may ring

The death-dirge of our gallant King ;

Or, with their 'larum, call
The burghers forth to watch and ward,
'Gainst southern sack and fires to guard
Dun-Edin's leaguer'd wall.—
But not for my presaging thought,
Dream conquest sure, or cheaply bought !
Lord Marmion, I say nay :—
God is the guider of the field,
He breaks the champion's spear and shield,—
But thou thyself shalt say,
When joins yon host in deadly stowre,
That England's dames must weep in bower,
Her monks the death-mass sing ;
For never saw'st thou such a power
Led on by such a king."—
And now, down winding to the plain,
The barriers of the camp they gain,
And there they made a stay.—
There stays the Minstrel, till he fling
His hand o'er every Border string,

And fit his harp the pomp to sing,
Of Scotland's ancient Court and King,
In the succeeding lay.

END OF CANTO FOURTH.

MARMION.

Introduction to Canto Fifth.

TO

GEORGE ELLIS, Esq.

Edinburgh.

WHEN dark December glooms the day,
And takes our autumn joys away ;
When short and scant the sun-beam throws,
Upon the weary waste of snows,
A cold and profitless regard,
Like patron on a needy bard ;
When sylvan occupation's done,
And o'er the chimney rests the gun,
And hang, in idle trophy, near,
The game-pouch, fishing-rod, and spear ;

When wiry terrier, rough and grim,
And greyhound, with his length of limb,
And pointer, now employ'd no more,
Cumber our parlour's narrow floor ;
When in his stall the impatient steed
Is long condemn'd to rest and feed ;
When from our snow-encircled home,
Scarce cares the hardest step to roam,
Since path is none, save that to bring
The needful water from the spring ;
When wrinkled news-page, thrice conn'd o'er,
Beguiles the dreary hour no more.
And darkling politician, cross'd,
Inveighs against the lingering post,
And answering house-wife sore complains
Of carriers' snow-impeded wains :
When such the country cheer, I come,
Well pleased, to seek our city home ;
For converse, and for books, to change
The Forest's melancholy range,

And welcome, with renew'd delight,
The busy day, and social night.

Not here need my desponding rhyme
Lament the ravages of time,
As erst by Newark's riven towers,
And Ettrick stripp'd of forest bowers.*
True,—Caledonia's Queen is changed,
Since, on her dusky summit ranged,
Within its steepy limits pent,
By bulwark, line, and battlement,
And flanking towers, and laky flood,
Guarded and garrison'd she stood,
Denying entrance or resort,
Save at each tall embattled port ;
Above whose arch, suspended, hung
Portcullis spiked with iron prong.
That long is gone,—but not so long,

* See Introduction to Canto II.

Since, early closed, and opening late,
Jealous revolved the studded gate,
Whose task, from eve to morning tide,
A wicket churlishly supplied.
Stern, then, and steel-girt was thy brow,
Dun-Edin ! O, how alter'd now,
When safe amid thy mountain court
Thou sitst, like Empress at her sport,
And, liberal, unconfined, and free,
Flinging thy white arms to the sea,
For thy dark cloud, with umber'd lower,
That hung o'er cliff, and lake, and tower,
Thou gleam'st against the western ray
Ten thousand lines of brighter day.

Not she, the Championess of old,
In Spenser's magic tale enroll'd,
She for the charmed spear renown'd,
Which forced each knight to kiss the ground,—
Not she more changed, when, placed at rest,

What time she was Malbecco's guest,*
She gave to flow her maiden vest ;
When, from the corslet's grasp relieved,
Free to the sight her bosom heaved ;
Sweet was her blue eye's modest smile,
Erst hidden by the aventayle ;
And down her shoulders graceful roll'd
Her locks profuse of paly gold.
They who whilome, in midnight fight,
Had marvell'd at her matchless might,
No less her maiden charms approved,
But looking liked, and liking loved.†
The sight could jealous pangs beguile,
And charm Malbecco's cares awhile ;
And he, the wandering Squire of Dames,
Forgot his Columbella's claims,
And passion, erst unknown, could gain
The breast of blunt Sir Satyrane ;

* See "The Fairy Queen," Book III. Canto IX.

† "For every one her liked, and every one her loved."

Nor durst light Paridel advance,
Bold as he was, a looser glance.
She charm'd, at once, and tamed the heart,
Incomparable Britomarte!

So thou, fair City! disarray'd
Of battled wall, and rampart's aid,
As stately seem'st, but lovelier far
Than in that panoply of war.
Nor deem that from thy fenceless throne
Strength and security are flown;
Still, as of yore, Queen of the North!
Still canst thou send thy children forth.
Ne'er readier at alarm-bell's call
Thy burghers rose to man thy wall,
Than now, in danger, shall be thine,
Thy dauntless voluntary line;
For fosse and turret proud to stand,
Their breasts the bulwarks of the land.
Thy thousands, train'd to martial toil,
Full red would stain their native soil,

Ere from thy mural crown there fell
The slightest knosp, or pinnacle.
And if it come,—as come it may,
Dun-Edin ! that eventful day,—
Renown'd for hospitable deed,
That virtue much with heaven may plead,
In patriarchal times whose care
Descending angels deign'd to share ;
That claim may wrestle blessings down
On those who fight for the Good Town,
Destined in every age to be
Refuge of injured royalty ;
Since first, when conquering York arose,
To Henry meek she gave repose,
Till late, with wonder, grief, and awe,
Great Bourbon's reliques, sad she saw.

Truce to these thoughts !—for, as they rise,
How gladly I avert mine eyes,
Bodings, or true or false, to change,
For Fiction's fair romantic range,

Or for Tradition's dubious light,
That hovers 'twixt the day and night:
Dazzling alternately and dim,
Her wavering lamp I'd rather trim,
Knights, squires, and lovely dames to see,
Creation of my fantasy,
Than gaze abroad on reeky fen,
And make of mists invading men.—
Who loves not more the night of June
Than dull December's gloomy noon?
The moonlight than the fog of frost?
And can we say, which cheats the most?

But who shall teach my harp to gain
A sound of the romantic strain,
Whose Anglo-Norman tones whilere
Could win the Royal Henry's ear,
Famed Beauclerc call'd, for that he loved
The minstrel, and his lay approved?
Who shall these lingering notes redeem,
Decaying on Oblivion's stream;

Such notes as from the Breton tongue
Marie translated, Blondel sung?—
O! born, Time's ravage to repair,
And make the dying Muse thy care;
Who, when his scythe her hoary foe
Was poising for the final blow,
The weapon from his hand could wring,
And break his glass, and shear his wing,
And bid, reviving in his strain,
The gentle poet live again:
Thou, who canst give to lightest lay
An unpedantic moral gay,
Nor less the dullest theme bid flit
On wings of unexpected wit;
In letters, as in life approved,
Example honour'd, and beloved,—
Dear ELLIS! to the bard impart
A lesson of thy magic art,
To win at once the head and heart,—
At once to charm, instruct, and mend,
My guide, my pattern, and my friend!

Such minstrel lesson to bestow
Be long thy pleasing task,—but, O !
No more by thy example teach
What few can practise, all can preach ;
With even patience to endure
Lingering disease, and painful cure,
And boast affliction's pangs subdued
By mild and manly fortitude.
Enough, the lesson has been given ;
Forbid the repetition, Heaven !

Come listen, then ! for thou hast known
And loved the Minstrel's varying tone,
Who, like his Border sires of old,
Waked a wild measure rude and bold,
Till Windsor's oaks, and Ascot plain,
With wonder heard the northern strain.
Come, listen !—bold in thy applause,
The Bard shall scorn pedantic laws ;
And, as the ancient art could stain
Achievements on the storied pane,

Irregularly traced and plann'd,
But yet so glowing and so grand ;
So shall he strive in changeful hue,
Field, feast, and combat, to renew,
And loves, and arms, and harpers' glee,
And all the pomp of chivalry.

MARMION.

CANTO FIFTH.

The Court.

MARMION.

CANTO FIFTH.

The Court.

I.

THE train has left the hills of Braid ;
The barrier guard have open made,
(So Lindesay bade,) the palisade,
That closed the tented ground ;
Their men the warders backward drew,
And carried pikes as they rode through,
Into its ample bound.
Fast ran the Scottish warriors there,
Upon the Southern band to stare ;

And envy with their wonder rose,
To see such well-appointed foes ;
Such length of shafts, such mighty bows,
So huge, that many simply thought,
But for a vaunt such weapons wrought ;
And little deem'd their force to feel,
Through links of mail, and plates of steel,
When, rattling upon Flodden vale,
The cloth-yard arrows flew like hail.

II.

Nor less did Marmion's skilful view
Glance every line and squadron through ;
And much he marvell'd one small land
Could marshal forth such various band :
For men-at-arms were here,
Heavily sheath'd in mail and plate,
Like iron towers for strength and weight,
On Flemish steeds of bone and height,
With battle-axe and spear.

Young knights and squires, a lighter train,
Practised their chargers on the plain,
By aid of leg, of hand, and rein,

Each warlike feat to show ;

To pass, to wheel, the croupe to gain,
And high curvett, that not in vain
The sword-sway might descend amain

On foeman's casque below.

He saw the hardy burghers there
March arm'd, on foot, with faces bare,

For visor they wore none,

Nor waving plume, nor crest of knight ;
But burnish'd were their corslets bright,
Their brigantines, and gorgets light,

Like very silver shone.

Long pikes they had for standing fight,

Two-handed swords they wore,
And many wielded mace of weight,
And bucklers bright they bore.

III.

On foot the yeoman too, but dress'd

In his steel jack, a swarthy vest,

With iron quilted well ;

Each at his back, (a slender store,)

His forty days provision bore,

As feudal statutes tell.

His arms were halbert, axe, or spear,

A cross-bow there, a hagbut here,

A dagger-knife, and brand.—

Sober he seem'd, and sad of cheer,

As loth to leave his cottage dear,

And march to foreign strand ;

Or musing, who would guide his steer,

To till the fallow land.

Yet deem not in his thoughtful eye

Did aught of dastard terror lie ;

More dreadful far his ire,

Than their's, who, scorning danger's name,

In eager mood to battle came,
Their valour like light straw on flame,
A fierce but fading fire.

IV.

Not so the Borderer:—bred to war,
He knew the battle's din afar,
And joy'd to hear it swell.
His peaceful day was slothful ease ;
Nor harp, nor pipe, his ear could please,
Like the loud slogan yell.
On active steed, with lance and blade,
The light-arm'd pricker plied his trade,—
Let nobles fight for fame ;
Let vassals follow where they lead,
Burghers, to guard their townships, bleed,
But war's the Borderer's game.
Their gain, their glory, their delight,
To sleep the day, maraud the night,
O'er mountain, moss, and moor ;

Joyful to fight they took their way,
Scarce caring who might win the day,

Their booty was secure.

These, as Lord Marmion's train pass'd by,

Look'd on at first with careless eye,

Nor marvell'd aught, well taught to know

The form and force of English bow.

But when they saw the Lord array'd

In splendid arms, and rich brocade,

Each Borderer to his kinsman said,—

“Hist, Ringan! seest thou there!

Canst guess which road they'll homeward ride?—

O! could we but on Border side,

By Eusedale glen, or Liddell's tide,

Beset a prize so fair!

That fangless Lion, too, their guide,

Might chance to lose his glistering hide;

Brown Maudlin, of that doublet pied,

Could make a kirtle rare.”

V.

Next, Marmion mark'd the Celtic race
Of different language, form, and face,

A various race of man ;

Just then the chiefs their tribes array'd,

And wild and garish semblance made,

The chequer'd trews, and belted plaid,

And varying notes the war-pipes bray'd,

To every varying clan ;

Wild through their red or sable hair

Look'd out their eyes, with savage stare,

On Marmion as he past ;

Their legs above the knee were bare ;

Their frame was sinewy, short, and spare,

And harden'd to the blast ;

Of taller race, the chiefs they own

Were by the eagle's plumage known.

The hunted red-deer's undress'd hide

Their hairy buskins well supplied ;

The graceful bonnet deck'd their head ;

Back from their shoulders hung the plaid.

A broadsword of unwieldy length,
A dagger proved for edge and strength,
A studded targe they wore,
And quivers, bows, and shafts,—but, O!
Short was the shaft, and weak the bow,
To that which England bore.

The Isles-men carried at their backs
The ancient Danish battle-axe.
They raised a wild and wondering cry,
As with his guide rode Marmion by.
Loud were their clamouring tongues, as when
The clanging sea-fowl leave the fen,
And, with their cries discordant mix'd,
Grumbled and yell'd the pipes betwixt.

VI.

Thus through the Scottish camp they pass'd,
And reach'd the City gate at last,
Where all around, a wakeful guard,
Arm'd burghers kept their watch and ward.

Well had they cause of jealous fear,
When lay encamp'd, in field so near,
The Borderer and the Mountaineer.
As through the bustling streets they go,
All was alive with martial show ;
At every turn, with dinning clang,
The armourer's anvil clash'd and rang,
Or toil'd the swarthy smith to wheel
The bar that arms the charger's heel ;
Or axe, or faulchion to the side
Of jarring grindstone was applied.

Page, groom, and squire, with hurrying pace,
Through street and lane, and market-place,
Bore lance, or casque, or sword ;
While burghers, with important face,
Described each new-come lord,
Discuss'd his lineage, told his name,
His following,* and his warlike fame.
The Lion led to lodging meet,
Which high o'erlook'd the crowded street ;

* *Following*—Feudal retainers.

There must the Baron rest,
Till past the hour of vesper tide,
And then to Holy-Rood must ride,—
Such was the King's behest.

Meanwhile the Lion's care assigns
A banquet rich, and costly wines,
To Marmion and his train :
And when the appointed hour succeeds,
The Baron dons his peaceful weeds,
And following Lindesay as he leads,
The palace-halls they gain.

VII.

Old Holy-Rood rung merrily,
That night, with wassel, mirth, and glee :
King James within her princely bower
Feasted the chiefs of Scotland's power,
Summon'd to spend the parting hour ;
For he had charged, that his array
Should southward march by break of day.
Well loved that splendid monarch aye

The banquet and the song,
By day the tourney, and by night
The merry dance, traced fast and light,
The masquers quaint, the pageant bright,
The revel loud and long.

This feast outshone his banquets past ;
It was his blithest,—and his last.

The dazzling lamps, from gallery gay,
Cast on the court a dancing ray ;
Here to the harp did minstrels sing ;
There ladies touch'd a softer string ;
With long-ear'd cap, and motley vest,
The licensed fool retail'd his jest ;
His magic tricks the juggler plied ;
At dice and draughts the gallants vied ;
While some, in close recess apart,
Courted the ladies of their heart,
Nor courted them in vain ;
For often in the parting hour,
Victorious Love asserts his power

O'er coldness and disdain ;
And flinty is her heart, can view
To battle march a lover true—
Can hear, perchance, his last adieu,
Nor own her share of pain.

VIII.

Through this mix'd crowd of glee and game,
The King to greet Lord Marmion came,
While, reverend, all made room.
An easy task it was, I trow,
King James's manly form to know,
Although, his courtesy to show,
He doff'd, to Marmion bending low,
His broider'd cap and plume.
For royal were his garb and mien,
His cloak, of crimson velvet piled,
Trimm'd with the fur of martin wild ;
His vest of changeful satin sheen,
The dazzled eye beguiled ;

His gorgeous collar hung adown,
Wrought with the badge of Scotland's crown,
The thistle brave, of old renown ;
His trusty blade, Toledo right,
Descended from a baldric bright ;
White were his buskins, on the heel
His spurs inlaid of gold and steel ;
His bonnet, all of crimson fair,
Was button'd with a ruby rare :
And Marmion deem'd he ne'er had seen
A prince of such a noble mien.

IX.

The Monarch's form was middle size ;
For feat of strength, or exercise,
Shaped in proportion fair ;
And hazle was his eagle eye,
And auburn of the darkest dye,
His short curl'd beard and hair.
Light was his footstep in the dance,
And firm his stirrup in the lists ;

And, oh ! he had that merry glance

That seldom lady's heart resists.

Lightly from fair to fair he flew,

And loved to plead, lament, and sue ;

Suit lightly won, and short-lived pain,

For monarchs seldom sigh in vain.

I said he joy'd in banquet-bower ;

But, 'mid his mirth, 'twas often strange,

How suddenly his cheer would change,

His look o'ercast and lower,

If, in a sudden turn he felt

The pressure of his iron belt,

That bound his breast in penance pain,

In memory of his father slain.

Even so 'twas strange how, evermore,

Soon as the passing pang was o'er,

Forward he rush'd, with double glee,

Into the stream of revelry :

Thus, dim-seen object of affright

Startles the courser in his flight,

And half he halts, half springs aside ;
But feels the quickening spur applied,
And, straining on the tighten'd rein,
Scours doubly swift o'er hill and plain.

X.

O'er James's heart, the courtiers say,
Sir Hugh the Heron's wife held sway :

To Scotland's court she came,
To be a hostage for her lord,
Who Cessford's gallant heart had gored,
And with the King to make accord,
Had sent his lovely dame.

Nor to that lady free alone
Did the gay King allegiance own ;

For the fair Queen of France
Sent him a Turquoise ring, and glove,
And charged him as her knight and love,
For her to break a lance ;

And strike three strokes with Scottish brand,

And march three miles on Southron land,
And bid the banners of his band
 In English breezes dance.
And thus, for France's Queen he drest
His manly limbs in mailed vest ;
And thus admitted English fair
His inmost counsels still to share ;
 And thus, for both, he madly plann'd
 The ruin of himself and land ;
 And yet, the sooth to tell,
 Nor England's fair, nor France's Queen,
 Were worth one pearl-drop bright and sheen,
 From Margaret's eye that fell,—
His own Queen Margaret, who, in Lithgow's bower,
All lonely sat, and wept the weary hour.

XI.

The Queen sits lone in Lithgow pile,
 And weeps the weary day,
The war against her native soil,

Her Monarch's risk in battle broil ;—

And in gay Holy-Rood, the while,

Dame Heron rises with a smile

Upon the harp to play.

Fair was her rounded arm, as o'er

The strings her fingers flew ;

And as she touch'd and tuned them all,

Ever her bosom's rise and fall

Was plainer given to view ;

For all, for heat, was laid aside,

Her wimple, and her hood untied.

And first she pitch'd her voice to sing,

Then glanced her dark eye on the King,

And then around the silent ring ;

And laugh'd, and blush'd, and oft did say

Her pretty oath, by Yea and Nay,

She could not, would not, durst not play !

At length, upon the harp, with glee,

Mingled with arch simplicity,

A soft, yet lively air she rung,

While thus the wily lady sung:

XII.

LOCHINVAR.

Lady Heron's Song.

O, young Lochinvar is come out of the west,
Through all the wide Border his steed was the best ;
And save his good broad-sword he weapons had none,
He rode all unarm'd, and he rode all alone.
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.

He staid not for brake, and he stopp'd not for stone,
He swam the Eske river where ford there was none ;
But, ere he alighted at Netherby gate,
The bride had consented, the gallant came late :
For a laggard in love, and a dastard in war,
Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave Lochinvar.

So boldly he entered the Netherby Hall,
Among bride's-men, and kinsmen, and brothers, and
all :

Then spoke the bride's father, his hand on his sword,
(For the poor craven bridegroom said never a word,)
“ O come ye in peace here, or come ye in war,
Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord Lochinvar ? ” —

“ I long woo'd your daughter, my suit you denied ; —
Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide —
And now am I come, with this lost love of mine,
To lead but one measure, drink one cup of wine.
There are maidens in Scotland more lovely by far,
That would gladly be bride to the young Lochinvar. ”

The bride kiss'd the goblet ; the knight took it up,
He quaff'd off the wine, and he threw down the cup.
She look'd down to blush, and she look'd up to sigh,
With a smile on her lips, and a tear in her eye.
He took her soft hand, ere her mother could bar, —
“ Now tread we a measure ! ” said young Lochinvar.

So stately his form, and so lovely his face,
That never a hall such a galliard did grace ;

While her mother did fret, and her father did fume,
And the bridegroom stood dangling his bonnet and
plume ;

And the bride-maidens whisper'd, “ ’Twere better
by far

To have match'd our fair cousin with young Loch-
invar.”

One touch to her hand, and one word in her ear,
When they reach'd the hall-door, and the charger
stood near ;

So light to the croupe the fair lady he swung,
So light to the saddle before her he sprung !

“ She is won ! we are gone, over bank, bush, and scaur ;
They'll have fleet steeds that follow,” quoth young
Lochinvar.

There was mounting 'mong Græmes of the Netherby
clan ;

Forsters, Fenwicks, and Musgraves, they rode and
they ran :

There was racing, and chasing, on Cannobie Lee,
But the lost bride of Netherby ne'er did they see.
So daring in love, and so dauntless in war,
Have ye e'er heard of gallant like young Lochinvar !

XIII.

The Monarch o'er the syren hung,
And beat the measure as she sung ;
And, pressing closer, and more near,
He whisper'd praises in her ear.
In loud applause the courtiers vied ;
And ladies wink'd, and spoke aside.

The witching dame to Marmion threw

A glance, where seem'd to reign

The pride that claims applauses due,

And of her royal conquest, too,

A real or feign'd disdain :

Familiar was the look, and told,

Marmion and she were friends of old.

The King observed their meeting eyes,

With something like displeas'd surprise ;

For monarchs ill can rivals brook,
Even in a word, or smile, or look.
Strait took he forth the parchment broad,
Which Marmion's high commission show'd :
“ Our Borders sack'd by many a raid,
Our peaceful liege-men robb'd,” he said ;
“ On day of truce our Warden slain,
Stout Barton kill'd, his vessels ta'en—
Unworthy were we here to reign,
Should these for vengeance cry in vain ;
Our full defiance, hate, and scorn,
Our herald has to Henry borne.”—

XIV.

He paused, and led where Douglas stood,
And with stern eye the pageant view'd :
I mean that Douglas, sixth of yore,
Who coronet of Angus bore,
And, when his blood and heart were high,
Did the third James in camp defy,
And all his minions led to die

On Lauder's dreary flat :
Princes and favourites long grew tame,
And trembled at the homely name
Of Archibald Bell-the-Cat ;
The same who left the dusky vale
Of Hermitage in Liddisdale,
Its dungeons, and its towers,
Where Bothwell's turrets brave the air,
And Bothwell bank is blooming fair,
To fix his princely bowers.
Though now, in age, he had laid down
His armour for the peaceful gown,
And for a staff his brand ;
Yet often would flash forth the fire,
That could, in youth, a monarch's ire
And minion's pride withstand ;
And even that day, at council board,
Unapt to sooth his sovereign's mood,
Against the war had Angus stood,
And chafed his royal Lord.

XV.

His giant-form, like ruin'd tower,
Though fall'n its muscles' brawny vaunt,
Huge-boned, and tall, and grim, and gaunt,
Seem'd o'er the gaudy scene to lower :

His locks and beard in silver grew ;

His eye-brows kept their sable hue.

Near Douglas when the Monarch stood,

His bitter speech he thus pursued :—

“ Lord Marmion, since these letters say,

That in the North you needs must stay,

While slightest hopes of peace remain,

Uncourteous speech it were, and stern,

To say—Return to Lindisfarn,

Until my herald come again.—

Then rest you in Tantallon Hold ;

Your host shall be the Douglas bold,—

A chief unlike his sires of old.

He wears their motto on his blade,

Their blazon o'er his towers display'd ;

Yet loves his sovereign to oppose,

More than to face his country's foes.

And, I bethink me, by Saint Stephen,
But e'en this morn to me was given
A prize, the first fruits of the war,
Ta'en by a galley from Dunbar,
A bevy of the maids of heaven.
Under your guard these holy maids
Shall safe return to cloister shades,
And, while they at Tantallon stay,
Requiem for Cochran's soul may say."
And, with the slaughter'd favourite's name,
Across the Monarch's brow their came
A cloud of ire, remorse, and shame.

XVI.

In answer nought could Angus speak ;
His proud heart swell'd well nigh to break :
He turn'd aside, and down his cheek
A burning tear there stole.
His hand the Monarch sudden took,
That sight his kind heart could not brook :
“ Now, by the Bruce's soul,

Angus, my hasty speech forgive !

For sure as doth his spirit live,

As he said of the Douglas old,

I well may say of you,—

That never king did subject hold,

In speech more free, in war more bold,

More tender, and more true :*

Forgive me, Douglas, once again.”—

And, while the King his hand did strain,

The old man's tears fell down like rain.

To seize the moment Marmion tried,

And whisper'd to the King aside :

“ Oh ! let such tears unwonted plead

For respite short from dubious deed !

A child will weep a bramble's smart,

A maid to see her sparrow part ;

A stripling for a woman's heart :

But woe awaits a country, when

She sees the tears of bearded men.

* O, Dowglas ! Dowglas !

Tendir and trew.

The Houlate.

Then, oh ! what omen, dark and high,
When Douglas wets his manly eye !”—

XVII.

Displeas'd was James, that stranger view'd
And tamper'd with his changing mood.

“ Laugh those that can, weep those that may,”

Thus did the fiery Monarch say,

“ Southward I march by break of day ;

And if within Tantallon strong,

The good Lord Marmion tarries long,

Perchance our meeting next may fall

At Tamworth, in his castle-hall.”—

The haughty Marmion felt the taunt,

And answer'd, grave, the royal vaunt :

“ Much honour'd were my humble home,

If in its halls King James should come ;

But Nottingham has archers good,

And Yorkshire men are stern of mood ;

Northumbrian prickers wild and rude.

On Derby Hills the paths are steep ;
In Ouse and Tyne the fords are deep ;
And many a banner will be torn,
And many a knight to earth be borne,
And many a sheaf of arrows spent,
Ere Scotland's King shall cross the Trent :
Yet pause, brave prince, while yet you may."—
The Monarch lightly turn'd away,
And to his nobles loud did call,—
“ Lords, to the dance,—a hall ! a hall !” *
Himself his cloak and sword flung by,
And led Dame Heron gallantly ;
And minstrels, at the royal order,
Rung out—“ Blue Bonnets o'er the Border.”

XVIII.

Leave we these revels now, to tell
What to Saint Hilda's maids befel,

* The ancient cry to make room for a dance, or pageant.

Whose galley, as they sail'd again
To Whitby, by a Scot was ta'en.
Now at Dun-Edin did they bide,
Till James should of their fate decide ;

 And soon, by his command,
Were gently summon'd to prepare
To journey under Marmion's care,
As escort honour'd, safe, and fair,
 Again to English land.

The Abbess told her chaplet o'er,
Nor knew which Saint she should implore ;
For, when she thought of Constance, sore
 She fear'd Lord Marmion's mood.

And judge what Clara must have felt !
The sword, that hung in Marmion's belt,
 Had drunk De Wilton's blood.

Unwittingly King James had given,
 As guard to Whitby's shades,
The man most dreaded under heaven
 By these defenceless maids ;

Yet what petition could avail,
Or who would listen to the tale
Of woman, prisoner, and nun,
'Mid bustle of a war begun ?
They deem'd it hopeless to avoid
The convoy of their dangerous guide.

XIX.

Their lodging, so the King assign'd,
To Marmion's, as their guardian, join'd ;
And thus it fell, that, passing nigh,
The Palmer caught the Abbess' eye,
Who warn'd him by a scroll,
She had a secret to reveal,
That much concern'd the Church's weal,
And health of sinner's soul ;
And with deep charge of secrecy,
She named a place to meet,
Within an open balcony,
That hung from dizzy pitch, and high,
Above the stately street ;

To which, as common to each home,
At night they might in secret come.

XX.

At night, in secret, there they came,
The Palmer and the holy dame.
The moon among the clouds rode high,
And all the city hum was by.

Upon the street, where late before
Did din of war and warriors roar,

You might have heard a pebble fall,
A beetle hum, a cricket sing,
An owlet flap his boding wing

On Giles's steeple tall.

The antique buildings, climbing high,
Whose Gothic frontlets sought the sky,

Were here wrapt deep in shade ;
There on their brows the moon-beam broke
Through the faint wreaths of silvery smoke,
And on the casements play'd.

And other light was none to see,
Save torches gliding far,
Before some chieftain of degree,
Who left the royal revelry
To bowne him for the war.—

A solemn scene the Abbess chose ;
A solemn hour, her secret to disclose.

XXI.

“ O, holy Palmer !” she began,—
“ For sure he must be sainted man,
Whose blessed feet have trode the ground
Where the Redeemer’s tomb is found ;
For his dear Church’s sake, my tale
Attend, nor deem of light avail,
Though I must speak of worldly love,—
How vain to those who wed above !—
De Wilton and Lord Marmion woo’d
Clara de Clare, of Gloster’s blood ;
(Idle it were of Whitby’s dame,
To say of that same blood I came ;)

And once, when jealous rage was high,
Lord Marmion said despiteously,
Wilton was traitor in his heart,
And had made league with Martin Swart,*
When he came here on Simnel's part ;
And only cowardice did restrain
His rebel aid on Stokefield's plain,—
And down he threw his glove :—the thing
Was tried, as wont, before the king ;
Where frankly did de Wilton own,
That Swart in Guelders he had known ;
And that between them then there went
Some scroll of courteous compliment.
For this he to his castle sent ;
But when his messenger return'd,
Judge how De Wilton's fury burn'd !
For in his packet there were laid

* A German general, who commanded the auxiliaries sent by the Duchess of Burgundy with Lambert Simnel. He was defeated and killed at Stokefield.

Letters that claim'd disloyal aid,
And proved King Henry's cause betray'd.
His fame, thus blighted, in the field
He strove to clear, by spear and shield;—
To clear his fame in vain he strove,
For wonderous are His ways above !
Perchance some form was unobserved ;
Perchance in prayer, or faith, he swerved ;
Else how could guiltless champion quail,
Or how the blessed ordeal fail ?

XXII.

“ His squire, who now De Wilton saw
As recreant doom'd to suffer law,
Repentant, own'd in vain,
That, while he had the scrolls in care,
A stranger maiden, passing fair,
Had drench'd him with a beverage rare ;
His words no faith could gain.
With Clare alone he credence won,
Who, rather than wed Marmion,

Did to Saint Hilda's shrine repair,
To give our house her livings fair,
And die a vestal vot'ress there—
The impulse from the earth was given,
But bent her to the paths of heaven.

A purer heart, a lovelier maid,
Ne'er shelter'd her in Whitby's shade,
No, not since Saxon Edelfled ;

Only one trace of earthly strain,

That for her lover's loss

She cherishes a sorrow vain,

And murmurs at the cross.—

And then her heritage,—it goes

Along the banks of Tame ;

Deep fields of grain the reaper mows,

In meadows rich the heifer lows,

The falconer, and huntsman, knows .

Its woodlands for the game.

Shame were it to Saint Hilda dear,

And I, her humble vot'ress here,

Should do a deadly sin,
Her temple spoil'd before mine eyes,
If this false Marmion such a prize
By my consent should win ;
Yet hath our boisterous Monarch sworn,
That Clare shall from our house be torn ;
And grievous cause have I to fear,
Such mandate doth Lord Marmion bear.

XXIII.

“ Now, prisoner, helpless, and betray'd
To evil power, I claim thine aid,
By every step that thou hast trode
To holy shrine and grotto dim,
By every martyr's tortured limb,
By angel, saint, and seraphim,
And by the Church of God !
For mark :—When Wilton was betray'd,
And with his squire forged letters laid,
She was—alas ! that sinful maid,
By whom the deed was done,—

O! shame and horror to be said,

She was—a perjured nun!

No clerk in all the land, like her,

Traced quaint and varying character.

Perchance you may a marvel deem,

That Marmion's paramour,

(For such vile thing she was,) should scheme

Her lover's nuptial hour;

But o'er him thus she hoped to gain,

As privy to his honour's stain,

Illimitable power:

For this she secretly retain'd

Each proof that might the plot reveal,

Instructions with his hand and seal;

And thus Saint Hilda deign'd,

Through sinner's perfidy impure,

Her house's glory to secure,

And Clare's immortal weal.

XXIV.

“ ’Twere long, and needless, here to tell,
How to my hand these papers fell ;

With me they must not stay.

Saint Hilda keep her Abbess true !

Who knows what outrage he might do,

While journeying by the way?—

O blessed Saint, if e’er again

I venturous leave thy calm domain,

To travel or by land or main,

Deep penance may I pay!—

Now, saintly Palmer, mark my prayer :

I give this packet to thy care,

For thee to stop they will not dare ;

And O ! with cautious speed,

To Wolsey’s hand the papers bring,

That he may shew them to the King ;

And, for thy well-earn’d meed,

Thou holy man, at Whitby’s shrine

A weekly mass shall still be thine,

While priests can sing and read.—

What ail'st thou?—Speak!”—For as he took
The charge, a strong emotion shook
His frame; and, ere reply,
They heard a faint, yet shrilly tone,
Like distant clarion feebly blown,
That on the breeze did die;
And loud the Abbess shriek'd in fear,
“Saint Withold save us!—What is here!
Look at yon City Cross!
See on its battled tower appear
Phantoms, that scutcheons seem to rear,
And blazon'd banners toss!”

XXV.

Dun-Edin's Cross, a pillar'd stone,
Rose on a turret octagon;
(But now is razed that monument,
Whence royal edict rang,
And voice of Scotland's law was sent
In glorious trumpet-clang.

O ! be his tomb as lead to lead,
Upon its dull destroyer's head !—
A minstrel's malison* is said.—)
Then on its battlements they saw
A vision passing Nature's law,
 Strange, wild, and dimly seen ;
Figures that seem'd to rise and die,
Gibber and sign, advance and fly,
While nought confirm'd could ear or eye
 Discern of sound or mien.
Yet darkly did it seem, as there
Heralds and Pursuivants prepare
With trumpet sound, and blazon'd fair,
 A summons to proclaim ;
But indistinct the pageant proud,
As fancy forms of midnight cloud,
When flings the moon upon her shroud
 A wavering tinge of flame ;

* *i. e.* Curse.

It flits, expands, and shifts, till loud,
From midmost of the spectre crowd,
This awful summons came :—

XXVI.

“ Prince, prelate, potentate, and peer,
Whose names I now shall call,
Scottish, or foreigners, give ear !
Subjects of him who sent me here,
At his tribunal to appear,
I summon one and all :
I cite you by each deadly sin,
That e'er hath soil'd your hearts within ;
I cite you by each brutal lust,
That e'er defiled your earthly dust,—
By wrath, by pride, by fear,
By each o'er-mastering passion's tone,
By the dark grave, and dying groan !
When forty days are past and gone,
I cite you at your Monarch's throne,
To answer and appear.”—

Then thunder'd forth a roll of names :—

The first was thine, unhappy James !

Then all thy nobles came ;

Crawford, Glencairn, Montrose, Argyle,

Ross, Bothwell, Forbes, Lennox, Lyle,—

Why should I tell their separate style ?

Each chief of birth and fame,

Of Lowland, Highland, Border, Isle,

Fore-doom'd to Flodden's carnage-pile,

Was cited there by name ;

And Marmion, Lord of Fontenaye,

Of Lutterward, and Scrivelbay,

De Wilton, erst of Aberley,

The self-same thundering voice did say.—

But then another spoke :

“ Thy fatal summons I deny,

And thine infernal lord defy,

Appealing me to Him on high,

Who burst the sinner's yoke.”—

At that dread accent, with a scream,

Parted the pageant like a dream,

The summoner was gone.
Prone on her face the Abbess fell,
And fast, and fast, her beads did tell ;
Her nuns came, startled by the yell,
And found her there alone.
She mark'd not, at the scene aghast,
What time, or how, the Palmer pass'd.

XXVII.

Shift we the scene.—The camp doth move,
Dun-Edin's streets are empty now,
Save when, for weal of those they love,
To pray the prayer, and vow the vow,
The tottering child, the anxious fair,
The grey-hair'd sire, with pious care,
To chapels and to shrines repair.—
Where is the Palmer now ? and where
The Abbess, Marmion, and Clare ?—
Bold Douglas ! to Tantallon fair

They journey in thy charge :
Lord Marmion rode on his right hand,
The Palmer still was with the band ;
Angus, like Lindesay, did command,
That none should roam at large.
But in that Palmer's alter'd mien
A wonderous change might now be seen ;
Freely he spoke of war,
Of marvels wrought by single hand,
When lifted for a native land ;
And still look'd high, as if he plann'd
Some desperate deed afar.
His courser would he feed and stroke,
And, tucking up his sable frocke,
Would first his metal bold provoke,
Then sooth or quell his pride.
Old Hubert said, that never one
He saw, except Lord Marmion,
A steed so fairly ride.

XXVIII.

Some half-hour's march behind, there came,
By Eustace govern'd fair,
A troop escorting Hilda's Dame,
With all her nuns, and Clare.
No audience had Lord Marmion sought ;
Ever he fear'd to aggravate
Clara de Clare's suspicious hate ;
And safer 'twas, he thought,
To wait till, from the nuns removed,
The influence of kinsmen loved,
And suit by Henry's self approved,
Her slow consent had wrought.

His was no flickering flame, that dies
Unless when fann'd by looks and sighs,
And lighted oft at lady's eyes ;
He long'd to stretch his wide command
O'er luckless Clara's ample land :
Besides, when Wilton with him vied,
Although the pang of humbled pride
The place of jealousy supplied,

Yet conquest, by that meanness won
He almost loath'd to think upon,
Led him, at times, to hate the cause
Which made him burst through honour's laws.
If e'er he loved, 'twas her alone,
Who died within that vault of stone.

XXIX.

And now, when close at hand they saw
North Berwick's town, and lofty Law,
Fitz-Eustace bade them pause a while,
Before a venerable pile,

Whose turrets view'd, afar,
The lofty Bass, the Lambie Isle,
The ocean's peace or war.

At tolling of a bell, forth came
The convent's venerable Dame,
And pray'd Saint Hilda's Abbess rest
With her, a loved and honour'd guest,
Till Douglas should a bark prepare
To waft her back to Whitby fair.

Glad was the Abbess, you may guess,
And thank'd the Scottish Prioress :
And tedious were to tell, I ween,
The courteous speech that pass'd between.

O'erjoy'd the nuns their palfreys leave ;
But when fair Clara did intend,
Like them, from horseback to descend,
Fitz-Eustace said,—“ I grieve,
Fair lady, grieve e'en from my heart,
Such gentle company to part ;—

Think not discourtesy,
But lords' commands must be obey'd ;
And Marmion and the Douglas said,
That you must wend with me.

Lord Marmion hath a letter broad,
Which to the Scottish Earl he show'd,
Commanding, that, beneath his care,
Without delay, you shall repair
To your good kinsman, Lord Fitz-Clare.”—

XXX.

The startled Abbess loud exclaim'd ;
But she, at whom the blow was aim'd,
Grew pale as death, and cold as lead,—
She deem'd she heard her death-doom read.

“ Cheer thee, my child !” the Abbess said,
“ They dare not tear thee from my hand,
To ride alone with armed band.”—

“ Nay, holy mother, nay,”
Fitz-Eustace said, “ the lovely Clare
Will be in Lady Angus' care,

In Scotland while we stay ;
And, when we move, an easy ride,
Will bring us to the English side,
Female attendance to provide

Befitting Gloster's heir ;
Nor thinks, nor dreams my noble lord,
By slightest look, or act, or word,
To harass Lady Clare.

Her faithful guardian he will be,

Nor sue for slightest courtesy

That e'en to stranger falls,

Till he shall place her, safe and free,

Within her kinsmen's halls."—

He spoke, and blush'd with earnest grace ;

His faith was painted on his face,

And Clare's worst fear relieved.

The Lady Abbess loud exclaim'd

On Henry, and the Douglas blamed,

Entreated, threaten'd, grieved ;

To martyr, saint, and prophet pray'd,

Against Lord Marmion inveigh'd,

And call'd the Prioress to aid,

To curse with candle, bell, and book.

Her head the grave Cistercian shook :

“ The Douglas, and the King,” she said,

“ In their commands will be obey'd ;

Grieve not, nor dream that harm can fall

The maiden in Tantallon hall.”—

XXXI.

The Abbess, seeing strife was vain,
Assumed her wonted state again,—

For much of state she had,—

Composed her veil, and raised her head,

And—“ Bid,” in solemn voice she said,

“ Thy master bold and bad,

The records of his house turn o’er,

And, when he there shall written see,

That one of his own ancestry

Drove the Monks forth of Coventry,

Bid him his fate explore ;

Prancing in pride of earthly trust,

His charger hurl’d him to the dust,

And, by a base plebeian thrust,

He died his band before.

God judge ’twixt Marmion and me ;

He is a chief of high degree,

And I a poor recluse ;

Yet oft, in holy writ, we see

Even such weak minister as me
May the oppressor bruise :
For thus, inspired, did Judith slay
The mighty in his sin,
And Jael thus, and Deborah,"—

Here hasty Blount broke in :
“ Fitz-Eustace, we must march our band ;
St Anton’ fire thee ! wilt thou stand
All day, with bonnet in thy hand,
To hear the lady preach ?
By this good light ! if thus we stay,
Lord Marmion, for our fond delay,
Will sharper sermon teach.
Come, d’on thy cap, and mount thy horse ;
The Dame must patience take perforce.”—

XXXII.

“ Submit we then to force,” said Clare ;
“ But let this barbarous lord despair
His purposed aim to win ;

Let him take living, land, and life :

But to be Marmion's wedded wife

In me were deadly sin :

And if it be the King's decree,

That I must find no sanctuary,

Where even a homicide might come,

And safely rest his head,

Though at its open portals stood,

Thirsting to pour forth blood for blood,

The kinsmen of the dead,—

Yet one asylum is my own

Against the dreaded hour ;

A low, a silent, and a lone,

Where kings have little power.

One victim is before me there.—

Mother, your blessing, and in prayer

Remember your unhappy Clare !"—

Loud weeps the Abbess, and bestows

Kind blessings many a one ;

Weeping and wailing loud arose

Round patient Clare, the clamorous woes
Of every simple nun,
His eyes the gentle Eustace dried,
And scarce rude Blount the sight could bide.
Then took the squire her rein,
And gently led away her steed,
And by each courteous word and deed,
To cheer her strove in vain.

XXXIII.

But scant three miles the band had rode,
When o'er a height they pass'd,
And, sudden, close before them show'd
His towers, Tantallon vast;
Broad, massive, high, and stretching far,
And held impregnable in war.
On a projecting rock they rose,
And round three sides the ocean flows;
The fourth did battled walls inclose,
And double mound and fosse.

By narrow draw-bridge, outworks strong,
Through studded gates an entrance long

To the main court they cross.

It was a wide and stately square :

Around were lodgings fit and fair,

And towers of various form,

Which on the court projected far,

And broke its lines quadrangular.

Here was square keep, there turret high,

Or pinnacle that sought the sky,

Whence oft the Warder could descry

The gathering ocean-storm.

XXXIV.

Here did they rest.—The princely care

Of Douglas, why should I declare,

Or say they met reception fair ?

Or why the tidings say,

Which varying to Tantallon came,

By hurrying posts, or fleeter fame,

With every varying day ?

And, first, they heard King James had won
Etall, and Wark, and Ford ; and then,
That Norham Castle strong was ta'en.

At that sore marvell'd Marmion ;—

And Douglas hoped his Monarch's hand
Would soon subdue Northumberland ;

But whisper'd news there came,
That, while his host inactive lay,
And melted by degrees away,
King James was dallying off the day
With Heron's wily dame.—

Such acts to chronicles I yield ;

Go seek them there, and see :

Mine is a tale of Flodden Field,

And not a history.—

At length they heard the Scottish host

On that high ridge had made their post,

Which frowns o'er Millfield Plain ;

And that brave Surrey many a band

Had gather'd in the Southern land,

And march'd into Northumberland,

And camp at Wooler ta'en.

Marmion, like charger in the stall,

That hears without the trumpet-call,

Began to chafe and swear:—

“ A sorry thing to hide my head

In castle, like a fearful maid,

When such a field is near !

Needs must I see this battle-day :

Death to my fame, if such a fray

Were fought, and Marmion away !

The Douglas, too, I wot not why,

Hath 'bated of his courtesy :

No longer in his halls I'll stay.”—

Then bade his band, they should array

For march against the dawning day.

END OF CANTO FIFTH.

NOTES

TO

Garrison.

NOTES TO CANTO I.

Note I.

*As when the Champion of the Lake
Enters Morgana's fated house,
Or in the Chapel Perilous,
Despising spells and demons' force,
Holds converse with the unburied corse.—P. 22, 23.*

The Romance of the Morte Arthur contains a sort of abridgment of the most celebrated adventures of the Round Table : and being written in comparatively modern language, gives the general reader an excellent idea of what romances of chivalry actually were. It has also the merit of being written in pure old English ; and many of the wild adventures which it contains, are told with a simplicity bordering upon the sublime. Several of these are referred to in the text ; and I would have illustrated them by more full extracts, but as this curious work is about to be published, I confine myself to the tale of

the Chapel Perilous, and of the quest of Sir Launcelot after the Sangreall.

“ Right so Sir Launcelot departed ; and when he came to the Chapell Perilous, he alighted downe, and tied his horse to a little gate. And as soon as he was within the church-yard, he saw, on the front of the chapell, many faire rich shields turned upside downe, and many of the shields Sir Launcelot had seene knights have before ; with that he saw stand by him thirtie great knights, more, by a yard, than any man that ever he had seene, and all those grinned and gnashed at Sir Launcelot ; and when he saw their countenance, hee dread them sore, and so put his shield afore him, and tooke his sword in his hand, ready to doe battaile ; and they were all armed in black harneis, ready, with their shields and swords drawen. And when Sir Launcelot would have gone through them, they scattered on every side of him, and gave him the way ; and therewith he waxed all bold, and entered into the chapell, and then hee saw no light but a dimme lampe burning, and then was hee ware of a corps covered with a cloath of silke ; then Sir Launcelot stooped downe, and cut a piece of that cloath away, and then it fared under him as if the earth had quaked a little, whereof he was afeared, and then he saw a faire sword lye by the dead knight, and that he gat in his hand, and hied him out of the chapell. As soon as he was in the chappell-yerd, all the knights spoke to him with a grimly voice, and said, ‘ Knight Sir Launcelot, lay that sword from thee, or else thou shalt die.’ ‘ Whether I live or die,’ said Sir Launcelot, ‘ with no great words get yee it againe, therefore fight for it and

ye list.' Therewith he passed through them ; and, beyond the chappell-yerd, there met him a fair damosel, and said, ' Sir Launcelot, leave that sword behind thee, or thou wilt die for it.' ' I will not leave it,' said Sir Launcelot, ' for no threats.' ' No?' said she ; ' and ye did leave that sword, Queene Guenever should ye never see.' ' Then were I foole and I would leave this sword,' said Sir Launcelot. ' Now, gentle knight,' said the damosel, ' I require thee to kiss me once.' ' Nay,' said Sir Launcelot, ' that God forbid !' ' Well, sir,' said she, ' and thou haddest kissed me, thy life dayes had been done ; but now, alas !' said she, ' I have lost all my labour ; for I ordeined this chappell for thy sake, and for Sir Gawaine ; and once I had Sir Gawaine within it ; and at that time he fought with that knight which thare lieth dead in yonder chappell, Sir Gilbert the bastard, and at that time hee smote off Sir Gilbert the bastard's left hand. And so, Sir Launcelot, now I tell thee, that I have loved thee this seaven yeare ; but there may no woman have thy love but Queene Guenever ; but sithen I may not rejoyce to have thy body alive, I had kept no more joy in this world but to have had thy dead body ; and I would have balmed it and served, and so have kept it my life daies, and daily I should have clipped thee, and kissed thee, in the despite of Queene Guenever.' ' Yee say well,' said Sir Launcelot, ' Jesus preserve me from your subtill craft !' And therewith he took his horse, and departed from her."

Note II.

*A sinful man, and unconfess'd,
He took the Sangreal's holy quest,
And, slumbering, saw the vision high,
He might not view with waking eye.—P. 23.*

One day, when Arthur was holding a high feast with his Knights of the Round Table, the Sangreal, or vessel out of which the last passover was eaten, a precious relic, which had long remained concealed from human eyes, because of the sins of the land, suddenly appeared to him and all his chivalry. The consequence of this vision was, that all the knights took on them a solemn vow to seek the Sangreal. But, alas! it could only be revealed to a knight at once accomplished in earthly chivalry, and pure and guiltless of evil conversation. All Sir Launcelot's noble accomplishments were therefore rendered vain by his guilty intrigue with Queen Guenever, or Ganore; and in this holy quest he encountered only such disgraceful disasters, as that which follows:

“ But Sir Launcelot rode overthwart and endlong in a wild forest, and held no path, but as wild adventure led him; and at the last, he came unto a stone crosse, which departed two wayes, in wast land; and by the crosse, was a stone that was of marble; but it was so darke, that Sir Launcelot might not well know what it was. Then Sir Launcelot looked by him, and saw an old chappell, and there he wend to have found people. And so Sir Launcelot tied his horse to a tree, and there hee put off his shield, and hung it upon a tree, and then hee went unto

the chappell door, and found it wasted and broken. And within he found a faire altar, full richly arrayed with cloth of silk, and there stood a faire candlestick, which beare six great candles, and the candlesticke was of silver. And when Sir Launcelot saw this light, hee had a great will for to enter into the chappell, but hee could find no place where he might enter. Then he was passing heavie and dismaied. Then he returned, and came againe to his horse, and tooke off his saddle and his bridle, and let him pasture, and unlaced his helme, and ungirded his sword, and laid him downe to sleepe upon his shield before the crosse.

“ And so hee fell on sleepe, and halfe waking and halfe sleeping, hee saw come by him two palfreys, both faire and white, the which beare a litter, therein lying a sicke knight. And when he was nigh the crosse, he there abode still. All this Sir Launcelot saw and beheld, for he slept not verily, and hee heard him say, ‘ Oh sweete Lord, when shall this sorrow leave me, and when shall the holy vessell come by me, where through I shall be blessed, for I have endured thus long for little trespasse.’ And thus a great while complained the knight, and allwaies Sir Launcelot heard it. With that, Sir Launcelot saw the candlesticke, with the fire tapers, come before the crosse; but he could see no body that brought it. Also, there came a table of silver, and the holy vessell of the Sancgreall, the which Sir Launcelot had seen before that time in King Petchour’s house. And therewithall the sicke knight set him upright, and held up both his hands, and said, ‘ Faire

sweete Lord, which is here within the holy vessell, take heede to mee, that I may bee hole of this great malady.' And therewith upon his hands, and upon his knees, he went so nigh, that he touched the holy vessell, and kissed it: And anon he was hole, and then he said, 'Lord God, I thank thee, for I am healed of this malady.' So when the holy vessell had been there a great while, it went into the chappell againe with the candlesticke and the light, so that Sir Launcelot wist not where it became, for he was overtaken with sinne, that hee had no power to arise against the holy vessell, wherefore afterward many men said of him shame. But he tooke repentance afterward. Then the sicke knight dressed him upright, and kissed the crosse. Then anon his squire brought him his armes, and asked his lord how he did. 'Certainly,' said hee, 'I thanke God, right heartily, for through the holy vessell I am healed: But I have right great mervaile of this sleeping knight, which hath ha neither grace nor power to awake during the time that this holy vessell hath beene here present.'—'I dare it right well say,' said the squire, 'that this same knight is defouled with some manner of deadly sinne, whereof he has never confessed.'—'By my faith,' said the knight, 'whatsoever he be, he is unhappie; for, as I deeme, hee is of the fellowship of the Round Table, the which is entred into the quest of the Sancgreal.'—'Sir,' said the squire, 'here I have brought you all your armes, save your helme and your sword; and therefore, by mine assent, now may ye take this knight's helme and his sword,' and so he did. And when he was cleane armed, he took Sir Launcelot's

horse, for he was better than his owne, and so they departed from the crosse.

“ Then anon Sir Launcelot awaked, and set himselfe upright, and he thought him what hee had there seene, and whether it were dreames or not ; right so he heard a voice that said, ‘ Sir Launcelot, more harde than is the stone, and more bitter than is the wood, and more naked and bare than is the lief of the fig-tree, therefore go thou from hence, and withdraw thee from this holy place ;’ and when Sir Launcelot heard this, hee was passing heavy, and wit not what to doe. And so he departed sore weeping, and cursed the time that he was borne ; for then hee deemed never to have had more worship ; for the words went unto his heart, till that he knew wherefore that hee was so called.”

Note III.

*And Dryden, in immortal strain,
Had raised the Table Round again,
But that a ribald king and court
Bade him toil on to make them sport ;
Demanded for their niggard pay,
Fit for their souls, a looser lay,
Licentious satire, song, and play.—P. 23, 24.*

Dryden’s melancholy account of his projected Epic Poem, blasted by the selfish and sordid parsimony of his patrons, is contained in an “ Essay on Satire,” addressed to the Earl of Dorset, and prefixed to the Translation of Juvenal. After men-

tioning a plan of supplying machinery from the guardian angels of kingdoms, mentioned in the book of Daniel, he adds :

“ Thus, my lord, I have, as briefly as I could, given your lordship, and by you the world, a rude draught of what I have been long labouring in my imagination, and what I had intended to have put in practice, (though far unable for the attempt of such a poem,) and to have left the stage, to which my genius never much inclined me, for a work which would have taken up my life in the performance of it. This, too, I had intended chiefly for the honour of my native country, to which a poet is particularly obliged. Of two subjects, both relating to it, I was doubtful whether I should chuse that of King Arthur conquering the Saxons, which, being farther distant in time, gives the greater scope to my invention ; or that of Edward the Black Prince, in subduing Spain, and restoring it to the lawful prince, though a great tyrant, Don Pedro the Cruel ; which, for the compass of time, including only the expedition of one year, for the greatness of the action, and its answerable event, for the magnanimity of the English hero, opposed to the ingratitude of the person whom he restored, and for the many beautiful episodes which I had interwoven with the principal design, together with the characters of the chiefest English persons, (wherein, after Virgil and Spenser, I would have taken occasion to represent my living friends and patrons of the noblest families, and also shadowed the events of future ages in the succession of our imperial line,)—with these helps, and those of the machines which I have mentioned, I might perhaps have done as

well as some of my predecessors, or at least chalked out a way for others to amend my errors in a like design ; but being encouraged only with fair words by King Charles II., my little salary ill paid, and no prospect of a future subsistence, I was then discouraged in the beginning of my attempt ; and now age has overtaken me, and want, a more insufferable evil, through the change of the times, has wholly disabled me.”

Note IV.

Of Ascapart and Bevis bold.—P. 26.

The “History of Bevis of Hampton” is abridged by my friend Mr George Ellis, with that liveliness which extracts amusement even out of the most rude and unpromising of our old tales of chivalry. Ascapart, a most important personage in the romance, is thus described in an extract :

This geaunt was mighty and strong,
 And full thirty foot was long,
 He was bristled like a sow ;
 A foot he had between each brow ;
 His lips were great, and hung aside ;
 His eyes were hollow ; his mouth was wide.
 Lothly he was to look on than,
 And liker a devil than a man.
 His staff was a young oak,
 Hard and heavy was his stroke.

Specimens of Metrical Romances, vol. II. p. 136.

I am happy to say, that the memory of Sir Bevis is still fragrant in his town of Southampton ; the gate of which is centi-

nelled by the effigies of that doughty knight-errant, and his gigantic associate.

Note V.

Day set on Norham's castled steep,

And Tweed's fair river, broad and deep, &c.—P. 29.

The ruinous castle of Norham, (anciently called Ubbandford,) is situated on the southern bank of the Tweed, about six miles above Berwick, and where that river is still the boundary between England and Scotland. The extent of its ruins, as well as its historical importance, shews it to have been a place of magnificence, as well as strength. Edward I. resided there when he was created umpire of the dispute concerning the Scottish succession. It was repeatedly taken and retaken during the wars between England and Scotland; and, indeed, scarce any happened in which it had not a principal share. Norham Castle is situated on a steep bank, which overhangs the river. The repeated sieges which the castle had sustained, rendered frequent repairs necessary. In 1164 it was almost rebuilt by Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham, who added a huge keep, or donjon; notwithstanding which, King Henry II., in 1174, took the castle from the bishop, and committed the keeping of it to William de Neville. After this period it seems to have been chiefly garrisoned by the king, and considered as a royal fortress. The Greys of Chillingham Castle were frequently the castellans, or captains of the garrison: Yet, as the castle was situated in the patrimony of St Cuthbert, the property was in the see of Durham till the Reformation. After that period it passed

through various hands. At the union of the crowns, it was in the possession of Sir Robert Carey, (afterwards Earl of Monmouth,) for his own life, and that of two of his sons. After King James's accession, Carey sold Norham Castle to George Home, Earl of Dunbar, for £6000. See his curious Memoirs, published by Mr Constable of Edinburgh.

According to Mr Pinkerton, there is, in the British Museum, Cal. B. 6. 216. a curious memoir of the Dacres on the state of Norham Castle in 1522, not long after the battle of Flodden. The inner ward, or keep, is represented as impregnable: "The provisions are three great vats of salt eels, forty-four kine, three hogsheads of salted salmon, forty quartes of grain, besides many cows, and four hundred sheep lying under the castle-wall nightly; but a number of the arrows wanted feathers, and a good *Fletcher* (*i. e.* maker of arrows) was required."—*History of Scotland*, vol. II. p. 201. Note.

The ruins of the castle are at present considerable, as well as picturesque. They consist of a large shattered tower, with many vaults, and fragments of other edifices, inclosed within an outward wall of great circuit.

Note VI.

The Donjon Keep.—P. 29.

It is perhaps unnecessary to remind my readers, that the *donjon*, in its proper signification, means the strongest part of a feudal castle; a high square tower, with walls of tremendous thickness, situated in the centre of the other buildings, from which, however, it was usually detached. Here, in case of the

outward defences being gained, the garrison retreated to make their last stand. The donjon contained the great hall, and principal rooms of state for solemn occasions, and also the prison of the fortress ; from which last circumstance we derive the modern and restricted use of the word *dungeon*. Ducange (*voce* DUNJO) conjectures plausibly, that the name is derived from these keeps being usually built upon a hill, which in Celtic is called DUN. Borlase supposes the word came from the darkness of the apartments in these towers, which were thence figuratively called Dungeons ; thus deriving the ancient word from the modern application of it.

Note VII.

*Well was he arm'd from head to heel,
In mail, and plate, of Milan steel.—P. 34.*

The artists of Milan were famous in the middle ages for their skill in armoury, as appears from the following passage, in which Froissart gives an account of the preparations made by Henry, Earl of Hereford, afterwards Henry IV., and Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Mareschal, for their proposed combat in the lists at Coventry : “ These two lords made ample provision of all things necessary for the combat ; and the Earl of Derby sent off messengers to Lombardy, to have armour from Sir Galeas, Duke of Milan. The Duke complied with joy, and gave the knight, called Sir Francis, who had brought the message, the choice of all his armour for the Earl of Derby. When he had selected what he wished for in plated and mail armour, the Lord of Milan, out of his abundant love for the Earl, or-

dered four of the best armourers in Milan to accompany the knight to England, that the Earl of Derby might be more completely armed."—JOHNES' *Froissart*, vol. IV. p. 597.

Note VIII.

The golden legend bore aright,

Who checks at me to death is dight.—P. 34.

The crest and motto of Marmion are borrowed from the following story. Sir David de Lindsay, first Earl of Crauford, was, among other gentlemen of quality, attended during a visit to London, in 1390, by Sir William Dalzell, who was, according to my authority Bower, not only excelling in wisdom, but also of a lively wit. Chancing to be at court, he there saw Sir Piers Courtenay, an English knight, famous for skill in tilting, and for the beauty of his person, parading the palace, arrayed in a new mantle, bearing for device an embroidered falcon, with this rhyme,—

I beare a falcon, fairest of flight,

Who so pinches at her, his death is dight*

In graith.†

The Scottish knight being a wag, appeared next day in a dress exactly similar to that of Courtenay, but bearing a magpie instead of the falcon, with a motto ingeniously contrived to rhyme to the vaunting inscription of Sir Piers :

* Prepared,

† Armour.

I bear a pie picking at a piece,
Who so picks at her, I shall pick at his nese,*
In faith.

This affront could only be expiated by a just with sharp lances. In the course, Dalzell left his helmet unlaced, so that it gave way at the touch of his antagonist's lance, and he thus avoided the shock of the encounter. This happened twice:— In the third encounter, the handsome Courtenay lost two of his front teeth. As the Englishman complained bitterly of Dalzell's fraud in not fastening his helmet, the Scottishman agreed to run six courses more, each champion staking in the hand of the king two hundred pounds, to be forfeited, if, on entering the lists, any unequal advantage should be detected. This being agreed to, the wily Scot demanded that Sir Piers, in addition to the loss of his teeth, should consent to the extinction of one of his eyes, he himself having lost an eye in the fight of Otterburn. As Courtenay demurred to this equalization of optical powers, Dalzell demanded the forfeit; which after much altercation, the king appointed to be paid to him, saying, he surpassed the English both in wit and valour. This must appear to the reader a singular specimen of the humour of that time. I suspect the Jockey Club would have given a different decision from Henry IV.

* Nose.

Note IX.

*They hail'd Lord Marmion :
They hail'd him Lord of Fontenaye,
Of Lutterward, and Scrivelbaye,
Of Tamworth tower and town.—P. 38.*

Lord Marmion, the principal character of the present romance, is entirely a fictitious personage. In earlier times, indeed, the family of Marmion, Lords of Fontenay, in Normandy, was highly distinguished. Robert de Marmion, Lord of Fontenay, a distinguished follower of the Conqueror, obtained a grant of the castle and town of Tamworth, and also of the manor of Scrivelby, in Lincolnshire. One, or both, of these noble possessions was held by the honourable service of being the royal champion, as the ancestors of Marmion had formerly been to the Dukes of Normandy. But after the castle and demesne of Tamworth had passed through four successive barons from Robert, the family became extinct in the person of Philip de Marmion, who died in 20th Edward I. without issue male. He was succeeded in his castle of Tamworth by Alexander de Freville, who married Mazera, his grand-daughter. Baldwin de Freville, Alexander's descendant, in the reign of Richard I. by the supposed tenure of his Castle of Tamworth, claimed the office of royal champion, and to do the service appertaining; namely, on the day of coronation, to ride completely armed, upon a barbed horse, into Westminster Hall, and there to challenge the combat against any who would gainsay the king's title. But this office was adjudged to Sir John Dymocke, to whom

the manor of Scrivelby had descended by another of the co-heiresses of Robert de Marmion ; and it remains in that family, whose representative is Hereditary Champion of England at the present day. The family and possessions of Freville have merged in the Earls of Ferrars : I have not, therefore, created a new family, but only revived the titles of an old one in an imaginary personage.

It was one of the Marmion family who, in the reign of Edward II., performed that chivalrous feat before the very castle of Norham, which Bishop Percy has woven into his beautiful Ballad, “ The Hermit of Warkworth.” The story is thus told by Leland :

“ The Scottes came yn to the marches of England, and destroyed the castles of Werk and Herbotel, and overran much of Northumberland marches.

“ At this tyme Thomas Gray and his friends defended Norham from the Scottes.

“ It were a wonderful processe to declare, what mischiefes cam by hungre and asseges by the space of xi yeres in Northumberland ; for the Scottes became so proude after they had got Berwicke, that they nothing esteemed the Englishmen.

“ About this tyme there was a great feste made yn Lincolnshir, to which came many gentlemen and ladies ; and amonge them one lady brought a heaulme for a man of were, with a very rich creste of gold, to William Marmion, knight, with a letter of commandement of her lady, that he should go into the daungerest place in England, and ther to let the heaulme be seene and known as famous. So he went to Norham ; whither

within 4 days of cumming cam Philip Moubray, guardian of Berwicke, having yn his bande 40 men of armes, the very flour of men of the Scottish marches.

“ Thomas Gray, capitayne of Norham, seynge this, brought his garison afore the barriers of the castle, behind whom cam William, richly arrayed, as al glittering in gold, and wearing the heaulme, his lady’s present.

“ Then said Thomas Gray to Marmion, ‘ Sir knight, ye be cum hither to fame your helmet : mount up on yowr horse, and ryde like a valiant man to yowr foes even here at hand, and I forsake God if I rescue not thy body deade or alyve, or I myself will dye for it.’

“ Whereupon he took his cursere, and rode among the throng of ennemyes ; the which layed sore stripes on hym, and pulled hym at the last out of his sadel to the ground.

“ Then Thomas Gray, with al the hole garison, lette prick yn among the Scottes, and so wondid them and their horses, that they were overthrown ; and Marmion, sore betten, was horsid agayn, and, with Gray, persewed the Scottes yn chase. There were taken 50 horse of price ; and the women of Norham brought them to the foote men to follow the chase.”

Note X.

Largesse, Largesse.—P. 39.

This was the cry with which heralds and pursuivants were wont to acknowledge the bounty received from the knights. Stewart of Lorn distinguishes a ballad, in which he satirizes

the narrowness of James V. and his courtiers, by the ironical burden,—

*Lerges, lerges, lerges, hay,
Lerges of this new year day.*
First lerges, of the king, my chief,
Who came as quiet as a thief,
And in my hand slid—shillings twae !*
To put his largeness to the prief, †
For larges of this new year day.

The heralds, like the minstrels, were a race allowed to have great claims upon the liberality of the knights, of whose feats they kept a record, and proclaimed them aloud, as in the text, upon suitable occasions.

At Berwick, Norham, and other Border fortresses of importance, pursuivants usually resided, whose inviolable character rendered them the only persons that could, with perfect assurance of safety, be sent on necessary embassies into Scotland. This is alluded to in Stanza XXII. p. 12.

Note XI.

*Sir Hugh the Heron bold,
Baron of Twisell, and of Ford,
And Captain of the hold.—P. 40.*

Were accuracy of any consequence in a fictitious narrative, this castellan's name ought to have been William ; for William Heron of Ford was husband to the famous Lady Ford, whose

* Two.

† Proof.

syren charms are said to have cost our James IV. so dear. Moreover, the said William Heron was, at the time supposed, a prisoner in Scotland, being surrendered by Henry VIII., on account of his share in the slaughter of Sir Robert Ker of Cessford. His wife, represented in the text as residing at the court of Scotland, was, in fact, living in her own castle at Ford.— See Sir RICHARD HERON'S curious *Genealogy of the Heron Family*.

Note XII.

*The whiles a Northern harper rude,
Chaunted a rhyme of deadly feud,—*

“ How the fierce Thirwalls, and Ridleys all,” &c.

Page 41.

This old Northumbrian ballad was taken down from the recitation of a woman eighty years of age, mother of one of the miners in Alston-moor, by an agent for the lead mines there, who communicated it to my friend and correspondent, R. Surtees, Esquire, of Mainsfort. She had not, she said, heard it for many years; but when she was a girl, it used to be sung at merry makings, “ till the roof rung again.” To preserve this curious, though rude rhyme, it is here inserted. The ludicrous turn given to the slaughter, marks that wild and disorderly state of society, in which a murder was not merely a casual circumstance, but in some cases an exceedingly good jest. The structure of the ballad resembles the “ Fray of Support,”* having the same irregular stanza and wild chorus.

* See *Minstrèlsy of the Scottish Border*, vol. I. p. 250.

I.

Hoot awa', lads, hoot awa',
 Ha' ye heard how the Ridleys and Thirwalls, and a',
 Ha' set upon Albany* Featherstonhaugh,
 And taken his life at the Deadmanshaugh?
 There was Willimoteswick,
 And Hardriding Dick,
 And Hughie of Hawden, and Will of the Wa',
 I canno' tell a', I canno' tell a',
 And mony a mair that the deil may knaw.

II.

The auld man went down, but Nicol, his son
 Ran away afore the fight was begun;
 And he run, and he run,
 And afore they were done,
 There was mony a Featherston gat sic a stun,
 As never was seen since the world begun.

III.

I canno' tell a', I canno' tell a',
 Some gat a skelp,† and some gat a claw;
 But they gar'd the Featherstons had their jaw,—‡
 Nicol and Alick, and a'.
 Some gat a hurt and some gat nane;
 Some had harness, and some gat sta'en.§

* Pronounced *Awbony*.

† *Skelp* signifies slap, or rather is the same word which was originally spelled *schlap*.

‡ *Hold their jaw*, a vulgar expression still in use.

§ Got stolen or were plundered; a very likely termination of the fray.

IV.

Ane gat a twist o' the craig ;*
 Ane gat a bunch † o' the wame ;‡
 Symy Haw gat lamed of a leg,
 And syne ran wallowing || hame.

V.

Hoot, hoot, the auld man's slain outright !
 Lay him now wi' his face down :—he's a sorrowful sight.
 Janet, thou donot, §
 I'll lay my best bonnet,
 Thou gets a new gude-man afore it be night.

VI.

Hoot away, lads, hoot away,
 We's a' be hangid if we stay.
 Tak' up the dead man, and lay him ahint the bigging ;
 Here's the Bailey o' Haltwhistle, ¶
 Wi' his great bull's pizzle,
 That sup'd up the broo', and syne——in the piggin.**

* Neck. † Punch. ‡ Belly. || Bellowing.

§ *Silly slut.* The Border Bard calls her so, because she was weeping for her slain husband ; a loss which he seems to think might be soon repaired.

¶ The Bailiff of Haltwhistle seems to have arrived when the fray was over. This supporter of social order is treated with characteristic irreverence by the moss-trooping poet.

** An iron pot with two ears.

In explanation of this ancient ditty, Mr Surtees has furnished me with the following local memorandum: Willimoteswick, the chief seat of the ancient family of Ridley, is situated two miles above the confluence of the Allon and Tyne. It was a house of strength, as appears from one oblong tower, still in tolerable preservation.* It has been long in possession of the Blacket family. Hardriding Dick is not an epithet referring to horsemanship, but means Richard Ridley of Hardriding,† the seat of another family of that name, which, in the time of Charles I., was sold on account of expenses incurred by the loyalty of the proprietor, the immediate ancestor of Sir Matthew Ridley. Will of the Wa' seems to be William Ridley of Waltown, so called from its situation on the great Roman wall. Thirlwall castle, whence the clan of Thirlwalls derived their name, is situated on the small river of Toppel, near the western boundary of Northumberland. It is near the wall, and takes its name from the rampart having been *thirled*, *i. e.* pierced, or breached, in its vicinity. Featherston castle lies south of the Tyne, towards Alston-moor. Albany Featherstonhaugh, the chief of that ancient family, made a figure in the reign of Edward VI. A feud did certainly exist between the

* Willimoteswick was, in prior editions, confounded with Ridley Hall, situated two miles lower, on the same side of the Tyne, the hereditary seat of William C. Lowes, Esq.

† Ridley, the bishop and martyr, was, according to some authorities, born at Hardriding, where a chair was preserved, called the Bishop's chair. Others, and particularly his biographer and namesake Dr Gloucester Ridley, assign the honour of the martyr's birth to Willimoteswick.

Ridleys and Featherstones, productive of such consequences as the ballad narrates. 24 Oct. 22do Henrici 8vi. *Inquisitio capt. apud Hautwhistle, sup. visum corpus Alexandri Featherston, Gen. apud Grensilhaugh, felonice interfecti, 22 Oct. per Nicolaum Ridley de Unthanke, Gen. Hugon Ridle, Nicolaum Ridle, et alios ejusdem nominis.* Nor were the Featherstones without their revenge ; for 36to Henrici 8vi, we have—*Utlagatio Nicolai Fetherston, ac Thome Nyxson, &c. &c. pro homicidio Will Ridle de Morale.*

Note XIII.

*James back'd the cause of that mock prince,
Warbeck, that Flemish counterfeit,
Who on the gibbet paid the cheat.*

Then did I march with Surrey's power,

What time we razed old Ayton tower.—P. 46.

The story of Perkin Warbeck, or Richard, Duke of York, is well known. In 1496, he was received honourably in Scotland ; and James IV., after conferring upon him in marriage his own relation, the Lady Catharine Gordon, made war on England in behalf of his pretensions. To retaliate an invasion of England, Surrey advanced into Berwickshire at the head of considerable forces, but retreated after taking the inconsiderable fortress of Ayton. Ford, in his Dramatic Chronicle of Perkin Warbeck, makes the most of this inroad :

SURREY. Are all our braving enemies shrunk back ;
Hid in the fogges of their distemper'd climate,
Not daring to behold our colours wave

In spight of this infected ayre ? Can they
 Looke on the strenth of Cundrestine defac't ;
 The glorie of Heydonhall devastated ; that
 Of Edington cast downe ; the pile of Fulden
 Overthrowne : And this, the strongest of their forts,
 Old Ayton Castle, yeelded and demolished,
 And yet not peepe abroad ? the Scots are bold,
 Hardie in battayle, but it seems the cause
 They undertake considered, appears
 Unjoynted in the frame on't.

Note XIV.

*For here be some have prick'd as far,
 On Scottish ground, as to Dunbar ;
 Have drunk the monks of St Bothan's ale,
 And driven the beeves of Lauðerdale ;
 Harried the wives of Greenlaw's goods,
 And given them light to set their hoods.—P. 47.*

The garrisons of the English castles of Wark, Norham, and Berwick, were, as may be easily supposed, very troublesome neighbours to Scotland. Sir Richard Maitland of Ledington wrote a poem, called “The Blind Baron's Comfort ;” when his barony of Blythe, in Lauderdale, was *haried* by Rowland Foster, the English captain of Wark, with his company, to the number of 300 men. They spoiled the poetical knight of 5000 sheep, 200 nolt, 30 horses and mares ; the whole furniture of his house of Blythe, worth 100 pounds Scots, (£8 : 6 : 8,) and every thing else that was portable. “This spoil was committed the 16th day of May, 1570, (and the said Sir Richard was three-

score and fourteen years of age, and grown blind,) in time of peace; when nane of that country *lippened* (expected) such a thing.”—“The Blind Baron’s Comfort” consists in a string of puns on the word *Blythe*, the name of the lands thus despoiled. Like John Littlewit, he had “a conceit left him in his misery, —a miserable conceit.”

The last line of the text contains a phrase, by which the Borderers jocularly intimated the burning a house. When the Maxwells, in 1685, burned the castle of Lochwood, they said they did so to give the Lady Johnstone “light to set her hood.” Nor was the phrase inapplicable; for, in a letter, to which I have mislaid the reference, the Earl of Northumberland writes to the king and council, that he dressed himself, at midnight, at Warkworth, by the blaze of the neighbouring villages, burned by the Scottish marauders.

Note XV.

The Priest of Shoreswood.—P. 49.

This churchman seems to have been a-kin to Welsh, the vicar of St Thomas of Exeter, a leader among the Cornish insurgents in 1549. “This man,” says Hollinshed, “had many good things in him. He was of no great stature, but well set, and mightilie compact: He was a very good wrestler; shot well, both in the long-bow, and also in the cross-bow; he handled his hand-gun and peece very well; he was a very good woodman, and a hardie, and such a one as would not give his head for the polling, or his beard for the washing. He was a companion in any exercise of activitie, and of a courteous and gentle behaviour. He descended of a good honest parentage,

being borne at Peneverin, in Cornwall ; and yet, in this rebellion, an arch-captain, and a principal doer.”—Vol. IV. p. 958. 4to edition. This model of clerical talents had the misfortune to be hanged upon the steeple of his own church.

NOTE XVI.

*And of that Grot where Olives nod,
Where, darling of each heart and eye,
From all the youth of Sicily,*

Saint Rosalie retired to God.—P. 52.

“ Sante Rosalia was of Palermo, and born of a very noble family, and when very young, abhorred so much the vanities of this world, and avoided the converse of mankind, resolving to dedicate herself wholly to God Almighty, that she, by divine inspiration, forsook her father’s house, and never was more heard of, till her body was found in that cleft of a rock, on that almost inaccessible mountain, where now the chapel is built ; and they affirm, she was carried up there by the hands of angels ; for that place was not formerly so accessible (as now it is) in the days of the Saint ; and even now it is a very bad, and steepy, and break-neck way. In this frightful place, this holy woman lived a great many years, feeding only on what she found growing on that barren mountain, and creeping into a narrow and dreadful cleft in a rock, which was always dropping wet, and was her place of retirement, as well as prayer ; having worn out even the rock with her knees, in a certain place, which is now open’d on purpose to show it to those who came here. This chapel is very richly adorn’d ; and on the spot where the Saint’s dead body was discover’d, which is just be-

neath the hole in the rock, which is open'd on purpose, as I said, there is a very fine statue of marble, representing her in a lying posture, railed in all about with fine iron and brass work; and the altar, on which they say mass, is built just over it."—*Voyage to Sicily and Malta*, by Mr John Dryden, (son to the poet,) p. 107.

Note XVII.

Himself still sleeps, before his beads

Have mark'd ten aves, and two creeds.—P. 55.

Friar John understood the soporific virtue of his beads and breviary, as well as his namesake in Rabelais. "But Gargantua could not sleep by any means, on which side soever he turned himself. Whereupon the monk said to him, I never sleep soundly but when I am at sermon or prayers: Let us therefore begin, you and I, the seven penitential psalms, to try whether you shall not quickly fall asleep. The conceit pleased Gargantua very well; and, beginning the first of these psalms, as soon as they came to *Beati quorum*, they fell asleep, both the one and the other."

Note XVIII.

The summon'd Palmer came in place;

— — — — —

In his black mantle was he clad,

With Peter's keys, in cloth of red,

On his broad shoulders wrought.—P. 55.

A *Palmer*, opposed to a *Pilgrim*, was one who made it his

sole business to visit different holy shrines ; travelling incessantly, and subsisting by charity ; whereas the Pilgrim retired to his usual home and occupations, when he had paid his devotions at the particular spot which was the object of his pilgrimage. The Palmers seem to have been the *Quæstionarii* of the ancient Scottish canons 1242 and 1296. There is, in the Bannatyne MS., a burlesque account of two such persons, entitled “ Simmy and his Brother.” Their accoutrements are thus ludicrously described, (I discard the ancient spelling,)

Synè shaped them up to loup on leas,
 Two tabards of the tartan ;
 They counted nought what their clouts were
 When sew'd them on, in certain.
 Syne clampit up St Peter's keys,
 Made of an old red gartane ;
 St James's shells, on t'other side, shews
 As pretty as a partane
 Toe,
 On Symmye and his brother.

NOTE XIX.

*To fair St Andrew's bound,
 Within the ocean-cave to pray,
 Where good St Rule his holy lay,
 From midnight to the dawn of day,
 Sang to the billows' sound.—P. 58.*

St Regulus, (*Scotticé*, St Rule) a monk of Patræ, in Achaia, warned by a vision, is said, A.D. 370, to have sailed westward

until he landed at St Andrews in Scotland, where he founded a chapel and tower. The latter is still standing ; and, though we may doubt the precise date of its foundation, is certainly one of the most ancient edifices in Scotland. A cave, nearly fronting the ruinous castle of the Archbishops of St Andrews, bears the name of this religious person. It is difficult of access ; and the rock in which it is hewed is washed by the German ocean. It is nearly round, about ten feet in diameter, and the same in height. On one side is a sort of stone altar ; on the other an aperture into an inner den, where the miserable ascetic, who inhabited this dwelling, probably slept. At full tide egress and regress are hardly practicable. As Regulus first colonised the metropolitan see of Scotland, and converted the inhabitants in the vicinity, he has some reason to complain, that the ancient name of Killrule (*Cella Reguli*) should have been superseded, even in favour of the tutelar saint of Scotland. The reason of the change was, that St Rule is said to have brought to Scotland the reliques of St Andrew.

Note XX.

*Thence to Saint Fillan's blessed well,
Whose spring can frenzied dreams dispel,
And the crazed brain restore.—P. 58.*

St Fillan was a Scottish saint of some reputation. Although Popery is, with us, matter of abomination, yet the common people still retain some of the superstitions connected with it : There are, in Perthshire, several wells and springs dedicated to St Fillan, which are still places of pilgrimage and offerings,

even among the Protestants. They are held powerful in cases of madness ; and, in some of very late occurrence, lunatics have been left all night bound to the holy stone, in confidence that the saint would cure and unloose them before morning.

NOTES TO CANTO II.

Note I.

*The scenes are desart now, and bare,
Where flourished once a forest fair.—P. 65.*

Ettricke Forest, now a range of mountainous sheep-walks, was anciently reserved for the pleasure of the royal chase. Since it was disparked, the wood has been, by degrees, almost totally destroyed, although, wherever protected from the sheep, copses soon arise without any planting. When the king hunted there, he often summoned the array of the country to meet and assist his sport. Thus, in 1528, James V. , made proclamation to all lords, barons, gentlemen, landward-men, and freeholders, that they should compear at Edinburgh, with a month's victuals, to pass with the king where he pleased, to danton the thieves of Teviotdale, Annandale, Liddesdale, and other parts of that country ; and also warned all gentlemen that had good dogs, to bring them, that he might hunt in the said country, as he pleased : The whilk the Earl of Argyle, the Earl of Huntley, the Earl of Athole, and so all the rest of the gentlemen of

the Highland, did, and brought their hounds with them in like manner, to hunt with the king, as he pleased.

“ The second day of June the king past out of Edinburgh to the hunting, with many of the nobles and gentlemen of Scotland with him, to the number of twelve thousand men ; and then past to Meggitland, and hounded and hawked all the country and bounds : that is to say, Crammat, Pappertlaw, St Marylaws, Carlavirick, Chapel, Ewindoores, and Longhope. I heard say, he slew, in these bounds, eighteen score of harts.”*

These huntings had, of course, a military character, and attendance upon them was a part of the duty of a vassal. The act for abolishing ward, or military tenures, in Scotland, enumerates the services of hunting, hosting, watching, and warding, as those which were in future to be illegal.

Taylor, the water-poët, has given an account of the mode in which these huntings were conducted in the Highlands of Scotland, in the seventeenth century, having been present at Bræmar upon such an occasion :

“ There did I find the truly noble and right honourable lords, John Erskine, Earl of Mar ; James Stuart, Earl of Murray ; George Gordon, Earl of Engye, son and heir to the Marquis of Huntley ; James Erskine, Earl of Buchan ; and John, Lord Erskine, son and heir to the Earl of Marr, and their Countesses, with my much honoured, and my last assured and approved friend, Sir William Murray, knight of Abercarney, and hun-

* Pitscottie's *History of Scotland*, folio edition, p. 143.

dred of others, knights, esquires, and their followers ; all and every man, in general, in one habit, as if Lycurgus had been there, and made laws of equality : for once in the year, which is the whole month of August, and sometimes part of September, many of the nobility and gentry of the kingdom (for their pleasure) do come into these Highland countries to hunt ; where they do conform themselves to the habit of the highland-men, who, for the most part, speak nothing but Irish ; and, in former time, were those people which were called the *Red-shanks*. Their habit is—shoes, with but one sole a-piece ; stockings, (which they call short hose,) made of a warm stuff of diverse colours, which they call tartan ; as for breeches, many of them, nor their forefathers, never wore any, but a jerkin of the same stuff that their hose is of ; their garters being bands or wreathes of hay or straw : with a plaid about their shoulders ; which is a mantle of diverse colours, much finer and lighter stuff than their hose ; with blue flat caps on their heads ; a handkerchief, knit with two knots, about their necks : and thus are they attired. Now their weapons are—long bowes and forked arrows, swords and targets, harquebusses, muskets, durks, and Lochaber axes. With these arms I found many of them armed for the hunting. As for their attire, any man, of what degree soever, that comes amongst them, must not disdain to wear it ; for if they do, then they will disdain to hunt, or willingly to bring in their dogs ; but if men be kind unto them, and be in their habit, then are they conquered with kindness, and the sport will be plentiful. This was the reason that I found so

many noblemen and gentlemen in those shapes. But to proceed to the hunting :

“ My good Lord of Marr having put me into that shape, I rode with him from his house, where I saw the ruins of an old castle, called the castle of Kindroghit. It was built by King Malcom Canmore, (for a hunting house,) who reigned in Scotland, when Edward the Confessor, Harold, and Norman William, reigned in England. I speak of it, because it was the last house I saw in those parts ; for I was the space of twelve days after, before I saw either house, corn-field, or habitation for any creature, but deer, wild-horses, wolves, and such like creatures,—which made me doubt that I should never have seen a house again.

“ Thus, the first day, we travelled eight miles, where there were small cottages, built on purpose to lodge in, which they call Lonquhards. I thank my good Lord Erskine, he commanded that I should always be lodged in his lodging : the kitchen being always on the side of a bank : many kettles and pots boiling, and many spits turning and winding, with great variety of cheer,—as venison baked ; sodden, rost, and stewed beef ; mutton, goats, kid, hares, fresh salmon, pigeons, hens, capons, chickens, partridges, muir-coots, heath-cocks, caperkel-lies, and termagants ; good ale, sacke, white and claret, tent (or allegant,) with most potent aquavitæ.

“ All these, and more than these, we had continually in superfluous abundance, caught by falconers, fowlers, fishers, and brought by my lord’s tenants and purveyors to victual our camps, which consisteth of fourteen or fifteen hundred men and horses.

The manner of the hunting is this : Five or six hundred men do rise early in the morning, and they do disperse themselves divers ways ; and seven, eight, or ten miles compass, they do bring, or chase in the deer, in many herds, (two, three, or four hundred in a herd,) to such or such a place, as the noblemen shall appoint them ; then, when day is come, the lords and gentlemen of their companies do ride or go to the said places, sometimes wading up to the middles, through burns and rivers ; and then, they being come to the place, do lie down on the ground, till those foresaid scouts, which are called the Tinkhell, do bring down the deer : but, as the proverb says of a bad cook, so these tinkhell men do lick their own fingers ; for, besides their bows and arrows, which they carry with them, we can hear, now and then, a harquebuss or a musket go off, which they do seldom discharge in vain. Then, after we had staid there three hours, or thereabouts, we might perceive the deer appear on the hills round about us, (their heads making a show like a wood,) which, being followed close by the tinkhell, are chased down into the valley where we lay ; then all the valley, on each sidé, being way-laid with a hundred couple of strong Irish greyhounds, they are all let loose, as occasion serves, upon the herd of deer, that, with dogs, guns, arrows, durks, and daggers, in the space of two hours, fourscore fat deer were slain ; which after are disposed of, some one way, and some another, twenty and thirty miles, and more than enough left for us, to make merry withal at our rendezvous.”

Note II.

———*Yarrow,*

Where erst the Outlaw drew his arrow.—P. 68.

The tale of the Outlaw Murray, who held out Newark Castle and Ettrick Forest against the king, may be found in the “Border Minstrelsy,” vol. I. In the Macfarlane MS., among other causes of James the Fifth’s charter to the burgh, is mentioned, that the citizens assisted him to suppress this dangerous outlaw.

Note III.

Lone Saint Mary’s silver lake.—P. 73.

This beautiful sheet of water forms the reservoir from which the Yarrow takes its source. It is connected with a smaller lake, called the Loch of the Lowes, and surrounded by mountains. In the winter, it is still frequented by flights of wild swans; hence my friend Mr Wordsworth’s lines :

The swans on sweet St Mary’s lake
Float double, swan and shadow.

Near the lower extremity of the lake, are the ruins of Dryhope Tower, the birth-place of Mary Scott, daughter of Philip Scott of Dryhope, and famous by the traditional name of the Flower of Yarrow. She was married to Walter Scott of Harden, no less renowned for his depredations, than his bride for her beauty. Her romantic appellation was, in latter days, with

equal justice, conferred on Miss Mary Lilius Scott, the last of the elder branch of the Harden family. The author well remembers the talent and spirit of the latter Flower of Yarrow, though age had then injured the charms which procured her the name. The words usually sung to the air of " Tweedside," beginning, " What beauties does Flora disclose," were composed in her honour.

Note IV.

For though, in feudal strife, a foe

Hath laid Our Lady's chapel low.—P. 74.

The chapel of Saint Mary of the Lowes (*de lacubus*) was situated on the eastern side of the lake, to which it gives name. It was injured by the clan of Scott, in a feud with the Cranstouns ; but continued to be a place of worship during the seventeenth century. The vestiges of the building can now scarcely be traced : but the burial ground is still used as a cemetery. A funeral, in a spot so very retired, has an uncommonly striking effect. The vestiges of the chaplain's house are yet visible. Being in a high situation, it commanded a full view of the lake, with the opposite mountain of Bourhope, belonging, with the lake itself, to Lord Napier. On the left hand is the Tower of Dryhope, mentioned in the preceding note.

Note V.

—*the Wizard's grave ;*

*That Wizard Priest's, whose bones are thrust
From company of holy dust.—P. 70.*

At one corner of the burial ground of the demolished chapel, but without its precincts, is a small mound, called *Binram's corse*, where tradition deposits the remains of a necromantic priest, the former tenant of the chaplainry. His story much resembles that of Ambrosio in the "Monk," and has been made the theme of a ballad, by my friend Mr James Hogg, more poetically designed the *Ettrick Shepherd*. To his volume, entitled the "Mountain Bard," which contains this, and many other legendary stories and ballads of great merit, I refer the curious reader.

Note VI.

Dark Loch-skene.—P. 78.

A mountain lake, of considerable size, at the head of the Moffat-water. The character of the scenery is uncommonly savage ; and the earn, or Scottish eagle, has, for many ages, built its nest yearly upon an islet in the lake. Loch-skene discharges itself into a brook, which, after a short and precipitate course, falls from a cataract of immense height, and gloomy grandeur, called, from its appearance, the "Grey Mare's Tail." The "Giant's Grave," afterwards mentioned, is a sort of trench, which bears that name, a little way from the foot of the cataract. It has the appearance of a battery designed to command the pass.

Note VII.

*Where from high Whitby's cloister'd pile,
Bound to Saint Cuthbert's Holy Isle.—P. 84.*

The Abbey of Whitby, in the Archdeaconry of Cleaveland, on the coast of Yorkshire, was founded A. D. 657, in consequence of a vow of Osway, King of Northumberland. It contained both monks and nuns of the Benedictine order; but, contrary to what was usual in such establishments, the abbess was superior to the abbot. The monastery was afterwards ruined by the Danes, and rebuilt by William Percy, in the reign of the Conqueror. There were no nuns there in Henry the Eighth's time, nor long before it. The ruins of Whitby Abbey are very magnificent.

Lindisfarne, an isle on the coast of Northumberland, was called Holy Island, from the sanctity of its ancient monastery, and from its having been the episcopal seat of the see of Durham during the early ages of British Christianity. A succession of holy men held that office; but their merits were swallowed up in the superior fame of St Cuthbert, who was sixth bishop of Durham, and who bestowed the name of his "patrimony" upon the extensive property of the see. The ruins of the monastery upon Holy Island betoken great antiquity. The arches are, in general, strictly Saxon; and the pillars which support them, short, strong, and massy. In some places, however, there are pointed windows, which indicate that the building has been repaired at a period long subsequent to the origi-

nal foundation. The exterior ornaments of the building, being of a light sandy stone, have been wasted, as described in the text. Lindisfarne is not properly an island, but rather, as the venerable Bede has termed it, a semi-isle : for, although surrounded by the sea at full tide, the ebb leaves the sands dry between it and the opposite coast of Northumberland, from which it is about three miles distant.

Note VIII.

*Then Whitby's nuns, exulting, told,
How to their house three Barons bold
Must menial service do.—P. 96.*

The popular account of this curious service, which was probably considerably exaggerated, is thus given in “A True Account,” printed and circulated at Whitby : “In the fifth year of the reign of Henry II., after the conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy, the lord of Uglebarnby, then called William de Bruce ; the lord of Smeaton, called Ralph de Percy ; with a gentleman and freeholder called Allatson, did, on the 16th. of October, 1159, appoint to meet and hunt the wild boar, in a certain wood, or desert place, belonging to the abbot of Whitby ; the place's name was Eskdale-side ; and the abbot's name was Sedman. Then, these young gentlemen being met, with their hounds, and boar-staves, in the place before mentioned, and there having found a great wild boar, the hounds ran him well near about the chapel and hermitage of Eskdale-side, where was a monk of Whitby, who was an hermit. The boar being very sorely pursued, and dead-run, took

in at the chapel door, there laid him down, and presently died. The hermit shut the hounds out of the chapel, and kept himself within at his meditations and prayers, the hounds standing at bay without. The gentlemen, in the thick of the wood, being just behind their game, followed the cry of their hounds, and so came to the hermitage, calling on the hermit, who opened the door, and came forth; and within they found the boar lying dead: for which, the gentlemen, in a very great fury, because the hounds were put from their game, did most violently and cruelly run at the hermit with their boar-staves, whereby he soon after died. Thereupon the gentlemen, perceiving and knowing that they were in peril of death, took sanctuary at Scarborough: But at that time the abbot being in very great favour with the king, removed them out of the sanctuary; whereby they came in danger of the law, and not to be privileged, but likely to have the severity of the law, which was death for death. But the hermit, being a holy and devout man, and at the point of death, sent for the abbot, and desired him to send for the gentlemen who had wounded him. The abbot so doing, the gentlemen came; and the hermit, being very sick and weak, said unto them, 'I am sure to die of those wounds you have given me.' The abbot answered, 'They shall as surely die for the same.' But the hermit answered, 'Not so, for I will freely forgive them my death, if they will be content to be enjoined the penance I shall lay on them for the safeguard of their souls.' The gentlemen being present, bade him save their lives. Then said the hermit: 'You and yours shall hold your

lands of the abbot of Whitby, and his successors, in this manner : That, upon Ascension-day, you, or some of you, shall come to the wood of the Stray-heads, which is in Eskdale-side, the same day at sun-rising, and there shall the abbot's officer blow his horn; to the intent that you may know where to find him ; and he shall deliver unto you, William de Bruce, ten stakes, eleven strout stowers, and eleven yethers, to be cut by you, or some of you, with a knife of one penny price ; and you, Ralph de Percy, shall take twenty-one of each sort, to be cut in the same manner ; and you, Allatson, shall take nine of each sort, to be cut as aforesaid ; and to be taken on your backs, and carried to the town of Whitby, and to be there before nine of the clock the same day before mentioned. At the same hour of nine of the clock, if it be full sea, your labour and service shall cease ; and if low water, each of you shall set your stakes to the brim, each stake one yard from the other, and so yether them on each side with your yethers ; and so stake on each side with your strout stowers, that they may stand three tides, without removing by the force thereof. Each of you shall do, make, and execute the said service, at that very hour, every year, except it be full sea at that hour ; but when it shall so fall out, this service shall cease. You shall faithfully do this in remembrance that you did most cruelly slay me ; and that you may the better call to God for mercy, repent unfeignedly of your sins, and do good works. The officer of Eskdale-side shall blow, *Out on you ! Out on you ! Out on you !* for this heinous crime. If you, or your successors, shall refuse this

service, so long as it shall not be full sea at the aforesaid hour, you, or yours, shall forfeit your lands to the abbot of Whitby, or his successors. This I entreat, and earnestly beg, that you may have lives and goods preserved for this service; and I request of you to promise, by your parts in heaven, that it shall be done by you, and your successors, as is aforesaid requested; and I will confirm it by the faith of an honest man.' Then the hermit said, 'My soul longeth for the Lord: and I do as freely forgive these men my death, as Christ forgave the thieves on the cross.' And, in the presence of the abbot and the rest, he said moreover these words: '*In manus tuos Domine commendo spiritum meum, a vinculis enim mortis redemisti me, Domine veritatis. Amen.*'—So he yielded up the ghost the eighth day of December, anno Domini 1159, whose soul God have mercy upon. Amen.

“This service,” it is added, “still continues to be performed with the prescribed ceremonies, though not by the proprietors in person. Part of the lands charged therewith are now held by a gentleman of the name of Herbert.”

Note IX.

The lovely Edelfled.—P. 97.

She was the daughter of King Oswy, who, in gratitude to heaven for the great victory which he won in 655, against Penda, the pagan King of Mercia, dedicated Edelfleda, then but a year old, to the service of God in the monastery of Whitby,

of which St Hilda was then abbess. She afterwards adorned the place of her education with great magnificence.

Note X.

—————of thousand snakes, each one
 Was changed into a coil of stone,
 When holy Hilda pray'd,
 —————how sea-fowls' pinions fail,
 As over Whitby's towers they sail.—P. 97.

These two miracles are much insisted upon by all ancient writers, who have occasion to mention either Whitby, or St Hilda. The relics of the snakes which infested the precincts of the convent, and were, at the abbess's prayer, not only beheaded, but petrified, are still found about the rocks, and are termed by Protestant fossilists *Ammonitæ*.

The other miracle is thus mentioned by Camden: "It is also ascribed to the power of her sanctity, that these wild geese, which, in the winter, fly in great flocks to the lakes and rivers unfrozen in the southern parts, to the great amazement of every one, fall down suddenly upon the ground, when they are in their flight over certain neighbouring fields hereabouts: a relation I should not have made, if I had not received it from several credible men. But those who are less inclined to heed superstition, attribute it to some occult quality in the ground, and to somewhat of antipathy between it and the geese, such as they say is betwixt wolves and scylla-roots: For, that such hidden tendencies and aversions as we call sympathies and an-

tipathies, are implanted in many things by provident nature for the preservation of them, is a thing so evident, that every body grants it." Mr Charlton, in his History of Whitby, points out the true origin of the fable, from the number of sea-gulls that, when flying from a storm, often alight near Whitby; and from the woodcocks, and other birds of passage, who do the same upon their arrival on shore, after a long flight.

Note XI.

His body's resting-place of old,

How oft their patron changed, they told.—P. 98.

St Cuthbert was, in the choice of his sepulchre, one of the most mutable and unreasonable saints in the Calendar. He died A.D. 686, in a hermitage upon the Farne islands, having resigned the bishopric of Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, about two years before. His body was brought to Lindisfarne, where it remained until a descent of the Danes, about 763, when the monastery was nearly destroyed. The monks fled to Scotland, with what they deemed their chief treasure, the relics of St Cuthbert. The saint was, however, a most capricious fellow-traveller; which was the more intolerable, as, like Sindbad's Old Man of the Sea, he journeyed upon the shoulders of his companions. They paraded him through Scotland for several years, and came as far west as Whithern, in Galloway, whence they attempted to sail for Ireland, but were driven back by tempests. He at length made a halt at Norham; from thence he went to Melrose, where he remained stationary for a short

time, and then caused himself to be launched upon the Tweed in a stone coffin, which landed him at Tilmouth, in Northumberland. This boat is finely shaped, ten feet long, three feet and a half in diameter, and only four inches thick ; so that, with very little assistance, it might certainly have swam : It still lies, or at least did so a few years ago, in two pieces, beside the ruined Chapel of Tilmouth. From Tilmouth, Cuthbert wandered into Yorkshire ; and at length made a long stay at Chester-le-street, to which the bishop's see was transferred. At length, the Danes continuing to infest the country, the monks removed to Rippon for a season ; and it was in return from thence to Chester-le-street, that, passing through a forest called Dunholme, the saint and his carriage became immovable at a place named Wardlaw, or Wardilaw. Here the saint chose his place of residence ; and all who have seen Durham must admit, that, if difficult in his choice, he evinced taste in at length fixing it. It is said, that the Northumbrian Catholics still keep secret the precise spot of the saint's sepulture, which is only entrusted to three persons at a time. When one dies, the survivors associate to them, in his room, a person judged fit to be the depository of so valuable a secret.

Note XII.

Even Scotland's dauntless king, and heir, &c.

Before his standard fled.—P. 99.

Every one has heard, that when David I., with his son Henry, invaded Northumberland in 1136, the English host march-

ed against them under the holy banner of St Cuthbert ; to the efficacy of which was imputed the great victory which they obtained in the bloody battle of Northallerton, or Cuton-moor. The conquerors were at least as much indebted to the jealousy and intractability of the different tribes who composed David's army ; among whom, as mentioned in the text, were the Galwegians, the Britons of Strath-Clyde, the men of Teviotdale and Lothian, with many Norman and German warriors, who asserted the cause of the Empress Maud. See CHALMERS' *Caledonia*, p. 622 ; a most laborious, curious, and interesting publication, from which considerable defects of style and manner ought not to turn aside the Scottish antiquary.

Note XIII.

*'Twas he, to vindicate his reign,
Edged Alfred's faulchion on the Dane,
And turn'd the Conqueror back again.—P. 100.*

Cuthbert, we have seen, had no great reason to spare the Danes, when opportunity offered. Accordingly, I find, in Si-meon of Durham, that the saint appeared in a vision to Alfred, when lurking in the marshes of Glastonbury, and promised him assistance and victory over his heathen enemies ; a consolation which, as was reasonable, Alfred, after the victory of Ashen-down, rewarded, by a royal offering at the shrine of the saint. As to William the Conqueror, the terror spread before his army, when he marched to punish the revolt of the Northumbrians, in 1096, had forced the monks to fly once more to Holy

Island with the body of the saint. It was, however, replaced before William left the north ; and, to balance accounts, the Conqueror having intimated an indiscreet curiosity to view the saint's body, he was, while in the act of commanding the shrine to be opened, seized with heat and sickness, accompanied with such a panic terror, that notwithstanding there was a sumptuous dinner prepared for him, he fled without eating a morsel, (which the monkish historian seems to have thought no small part both of the miracle and the penance,) and never drew his bridle till he got to the river Tees.

Note XIV.

St Cuthbert sits, and toils to frame

The sea-born beads, that bear his name.—P. 100.

Although we do not learn that Cuthbert was, during his life, such an artificer as Dunstan, his brother in sanctity, yet, since his death, he has acquired the reputation of forging those *entrochiæ* which are found among the rocks of Holy Island, and pass there by the name of St Cuthbert's Beads. While at this task, he is supposed to sit during the night upon a certain rock, and use another as his anvil. This story was perhaps credited in former days ; at least the saint's legend contains some not more probable.

Note XV.

Old Colwulf.—P. 101.

Ceolwolf, or Colwulf, King of Northumberland, flourished

in the eighth century. He was a man of some learning ; for the venerable Bede dedicates to him his " Ecclesiastical History." He abdicated the throne about 738, and retired to Holy Island, where he died in the odour of sanctity. Saint as Colwulf was, however, I fear the foundation of the penance-vault does not correspond with his character ; for it is recorded among his *memorabilia*, that, finding the air of the island raw and cold, he indulged the monks, whose rule had hitherto confined them to milk or water, with the comfortable privilege of using wine or ale. If any rigid antiquary insists on this objection, he is welcome to suppose the penance-vault was intended, by the founder, for the more genial purposes of a cellar.

These penitential-vaults were the *Geissel-gewolbe* of German convents. In the earlier and more rigid times of monastic discipline, they were sometimes used as a cemetery for the lay benefactors of the convent, whose unsanctified corpses were then seldom permitted to pollute the choir. They also served as places of meeting for the chapter, when measures of uncommon severity were to be adopted. But their most frequent use, as implied by the name, was as places for performing penances, or undergoing punishment.

Note XVI.

Tynemouth's haughty Prioress—P. 104.

That there was an ancient priory at Tynemouth is certain. Its ruins are situated on a high rocky point ; and, doubtless, many a vow was made to the shrine by the distressed mariners,

who drove towards the iron-bound coast of Northumberland in stormy weather. It was anciently a nunnery ; for Virea, abbess of Tynemouth, presented St Cuthbert (yet alive) with a rare winding-sheet, in emulation of a holy lady called Tuda, who had sent him a coffin : But, as in the case of Whitby and of Holy Island, the introduction of nuns at Tynemouth, in the reign of Henry VIII., is an anachronism. The nunnery at Holy Island is altogether fictitious. Indeed, St Cuthbert was unlikely to permit such an establishment ; for, notwithstanding his accepting the mortuary gifts above mentioned, and his carrying on a visiting acquaintance with the abbess of Coldingham, he certainly hated the whole female sex ; and, in revenge of a slippery trick played to him by an Irish princess, he, after death, inflicted severe penances on such as presumed to approach within a certain distance of his shrine.

Note XVII.

On those the wall was to enclose

Alive, within the tomb.—P. 109.

It is well known, that the religious, who broke their vows of chastity, were subjected to the same penalty as the Roman vestals in a similar case. A small niche, sufficient to enclose their bodies, was made in the massive wall of the convent ; a slender pittance of food and water was deposited in it, and the awful words, VADE IN PACE, were the signal for immuring the criminal. It is not likely that, in latter times, this punishment was often resorted to ; but, among the ruins of the abbey

of Coldingham, were some years ago discovered the remains of a female skeleton, which, from the shape of the niche, and position of the figure, seemed to be that of an immured nun.

NOTES TO CANTO III.

Note I.

The village Inn.—P. 141.

The accommodations of a Scottish hostelrie, or inn, in the 16th century, may be collected from Dunbar's admirable tale of "The Friars of Berwick." Simon Lawder, "the gay ostlier," seems to have lived very comfortably; and his wife decorated her person with a scarlet kirtle, and a belt of silk and silver, and rings upon her fingers; and feasted her paramour with rabbits, capons, partridges, and Bourdeaux wine. At least, if the Scottish inns were not good, it was not for want of encouragement from the legislature; who, so early as the reign of James I., not only enacted, that in all boroughs and fairs there be hostellaries, having stables and chambers, and provision for man and horse, but, by another statute, ordained, that no man, travelling on horse or foot, should presume to lodge any where except in these hostellaries; and that no person, save inn-

keepers, should receive such travellers, under the penalty of forty shillings for exercising such hospitality.* But, in spite of these provident enactments, the Scottish hostels are but indifferent, and strangers continue to find reception in the houses of individuals.

Note II.

The death of a dear friend.—P. 151.

Among other omens to which faithful credit is given among the Scottish peasantry, is what is called the “dead-bell,” explained, by my friend James Hogg, to be that tinkling in the ears which the country people regard as the secret intelligence of some friend’s decease. He tells a story to the purpose in the “Mountain Bard,” p. 26.

Note III.

The Goblin Hall.—P. 157.

A vaulted hall under the ancient castle of Gifford, or Yester, (for it bears either name indifferently,) the construction of which has, from a very remote period, been ascribed to magic. The Statistical Account of the Parish of Garvald and Baro, gives the following account of the present state of this castle and apartment: “Upon a peninsula, formed by the water of Hopes on the east, and a large rivulet on the west, stands the ancient castle of Yester. Sir David Dalrymple, in his *Annals*,

* James I. Parliament I. cap. 24; Parliament III. cap. 56.

relates, that, ‘ Hugh Clifford de Yester died in 1267 ; that in his castle there was a capacious cavern formed by magical art, and called in the country Bo-Hall, *i. e.* Hobgoblin Hall.’ A stair of twenty-four steps led down to this apartment, which is a large and spacious hall, with an arched roof ; and though it hath stood for so many centuries, and been exposed to the external air for a period of fifty or sixty years, it is still as firm and entire as if it had only stood a few years. From the floor of this hall, another stair of thirty-six steps leads down to a pit which hath a communication with Hopes-water. A great part of the walls of this large and ancient castle are still standing. There is a tradition, that the castle of Yester was the last fortification in this country that surrendered to General Gray, sent into Scotland by Protector Somerset.” *Statistical Account*, vol. XIII. I have only to add, that, in 1737, the Goblin Hall was tenanted by the Marquis of Tweeddale’s falconer, as I learn from a poem by Boyse, entitled “ Retirement,” written upon visiting Yester. It is now rendered inaccessible by the fall of the stair.

Sir David Dalrymple’s authority for the anecdote is Fordun, whose words are,—“ A. D. MCCLXVII, *Hugo Giffard de Yester moritur ; cujus castrum, vel saltem caveam, et dongionem, artis dæmonicæ antiquæ relationes ferunt fabrifactas : nam ibidem habetur mirabilis specus subterraneus, opere mirifico constructus, magno terrarum spatio protelatus, qui communiter Bo-Hall appellatus est.*” Lib. X. cap. 21.—Sir David conjectures, that Hugh de Gifford must either have been a very wise man, or a great oppressor.

Note IV.

*There floated Haco's banner trim,
Above Norwegian warriors grim.—P. 159.*

In 1263, Haco, King of Norway, came into the Firth of Clyde with a powerful armament, and made a descent at Largs, in Ayrshire. Here he was encountered and defeated, on the 2d October, by Alexander III. Haco retreated to Orkney, where he died soon after this disgrace to his arms. There are still existing, near the place of battle, many barrows, some of which, having been opened, were found, as usual, to contain bones and urns.

Note V.

His wizard habit strange.—P. 159.

“Magicians, as is well known, were very curious in the choice and form of their vestments. Their caps are oval, or like pyramids, with lappets on each side, and fur within. Their gowns are long, and furred with fox-skins, under which they have a linen garment reaching to the knee. Their girdles are three inches broad, and have many cabalistical names, with crosses, trines, and circles inscribed on them. Their shoes should be of new russet leather, with a cross cut upon them. Their knives are dagger fashion; and their swords have neither guard nor scabbard.” See these, and many other particulars, in the Discourse concerning Devils and Spirits, annexed to REGINALD SCOTT'S *Discovery of Witchcraft*, edition 1665.

Note VI.

Upon his breast a pentacle—P. 159.

“ A pentacle is a piece of fine linen, folded with five corners, according to the five senses, and suitably inscribed with characters. This the magician extends towards the spirits which he evokes, when they are stubborn and rebellious, and refuse to be conformable unto the ceremonies and rites of magic.” See the Discourse, &c. above mentioned, p. 66.

Note VII.

*As born upon that blessed night,
When yawning graves, and dying groan,
Proclaim'd hell's empire overthrown.—P. 162.*

It is a popular article of faith, that those who are born on Christmas, or Good Friday, have the power of seeing spirits, and even of commanding them. The Spaniards imputed the haggard and down-cast looks of their Philip II. to the disagreeable visions to which this privilege subjected him.

Note VIII.

*Yet still the mighty spear and shield,
The elfin warrior doth wield
Upon the brown hill's breast.—P. 167.*

The following extract from the Essay upon the Fairy Superstitions, in “ The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border,” vol. II. will shew whence many of the particulars of the combat between Alexander III. and the Goblin Knight are derived :

“ Gervase of Tilbury (*Otia Imperial. ap. Script. rer. Brunsvic. vol. I. p. 797,*) relates the following popular story concerning a fairy knight : ‘ Osbert, a bold and powerful baron, visited a noble family in the vicinity of Wandlebury, in the bishopric of Ely. Among other stories related in the social circle of his friends, who, according to custom, amused each other by repeating ancient tales and traditions, he was informed, that if any knight, unattended, entered an adjacent plain by moonlight, and challenged an adversary to appear, he would be immediately encountered by a spirit in the form of a knight. Osbert resolved to make the experiment, and set out, attended by a single squire, whom he ordered to remain without the limits of the plain, which was surrounded by an ancient entrenchment. On repeating the challenge, he was instantly assailed by an adversary, whom he quickly unhorsed, and seized the reins of his steed. During this operation, his ghostly opponent sprung up, and, darting his spear, like a javelin, at Osbert, wounded him in the thigh. Osbert returned in triumph with the horse, which he committed to the care of his servants. The horse was of a sable colour, as well as his whole accoutrements, and apparently of great beauty and vigour. He remained with his keeper till cock-crowing, when, with eyes flashing fire, he reared, spurned the ground, and vanished. On disarming himself, Osbert perceived that he was wounded, and that one of his steel-boots was full of blood. Gervase adds, that, as long as he lived, the scar of his wound opened afresh on the anniversary of the eve on which he encountered the spirit.’—Less fortunate was the gallant Bohemian knight, who,

travelling by night, with a single companion, came in sight of a Fairy host, arrayed under displayed banners. Despising the remonstrances of his friend, the knight pricked forward to break a lance with a champion, who advanced from the ranks, apparently in defiance. His companion beheld the Bohemian overthrown, horse and man, by his aërial adversary; and returning to the spot next morning, he found the mangled corpses of the knight and his steed."—*Hierarchy of Blessed Angels*, p. 554.

Besides the instances of Elfin Chivalry above quoted, many others might be alleged in support of employing Fairy machinery in this manner. The forest of Glenmore, in the North Highlands, is believed to be haunted by a spirit called *Lham-dearg*, in the array of an ancient warrior, having a bloody hand, from which he takes his name. He insists upon those with whom he meets doing battle with him; and the clergyman, who makes up an account of the district, extant in the Macfarlane MS., in the Advocates' Library, gravely assures us, that, in his time, *Lham-dearg* fought with three brothers whom he met in his walk, none of whom long survived the ghostly conflict. Barclay, in his "Euphormion," gives a singular account of an officer who had ventured, with his servant, rather to intrude upon a haunted house, in a town in Flanders, than to put up with worse quarters elsewhere. After taking the usual precautions of providing fires, lights, and arms, they watched till midnight, when, behold! the severed arm of a man dropped from the ceiling; this was followed by the legs, the other arm, the trunk, and the head of the body, all sepa-

rately. The members rolled together, united themselves in the presence of the astonished soldiers, and formed a gigantic warrior, who defied them both to combat. Their blows, although they penetrated the body, and amputated the limbs of their strange antagonist, had, as the reader may easily believe, little effect on an enemy who possessed such powers of self-union; nor did his efforts make a more effectual impression upon them. How the combat terminated I do not exactly remember, and have not the book by me; but I think the spirit made to the intruders on his mansion the usual proposal, that they should renounce their redemption; which being declined, he was obliged to retreat.

The most singular tale of the kind is contained in an extract communicated to me by my friend Mr Surtees of Mainsforth, in the Bishopric, who copied it from a MS. note in a copy of Burthogge "On the Nature of Spirits," 8vo. 1694, which had been the property of the late Mr Gill, attorney-general of Egerton, Bishop of Durham. "It was not," says my obliging correspondent, "in Mr Gill's own hand, but probably an hundred years older, and was said to be *E libris Convent. Dunelm. per T. C. extract.*, whom I believe to have been Thomas Cradocke, Esq. barrister, who held several offices under the see of Durham an hundred years ago. Mr Gill was possessed of most of his manuscripts." The extract, which, in fact, suggested the introduction of the tale into the present poem, runs thus:

"*Rem miram hujusmodi quæ nostris temporibus evenit, teste viro nobili ac fide dignissimo, enarrare haud pigebit. Radulphus*

Bulmer, cum e castris quæ tunc temporis prope Norham posita erant, oblectationis causa exisset, ac in ulteriore Tuedæ ripâ prædam cum canibus leporariis insequeretur, forte cum Scoto quodam nobili, sibi antehac ut videbatur familiariter cognito, congressus est; ac ut fas erat inter inimicos, flagrante bello, brevissimâ interrogationis morâ interpositâ, alterutros invicem incitato cursu infestis animis petiere. Noster, primo occursum, equo, præ acerrimo hostis impetu, labante, in terram eversus, pectore et capite læso, sanguinem, mortuo similis, evomebat. Quem ut se ægre habentem comiter allocutus est alter, pollicitusque modo auxilium non abnegaret, monitisque obtemperans ab omni rerum sacrarum cogitatione abstineret, nec Deo, Deiparæ Virgini, Sanctove ullo, preces aut vota efferet vel inter sese conciperet, se brevi eum sanum validumque restitutum esse. Præ angore oblata conditio accepta est; ac veterator ille nescio quid obscæni murmuris insusurrans, prehensa manu, dicto citius in pedes sanum, ut antea sublevavit. Noster autem, maxima præ rei inauditâ novitate formidine percussus, MI JESU! exclamat vel quid simile; ac subito respiciens nec hostem nec ullum alium conspicit, equum solum gravissimo nuper casu afflictum, per summam pacem in rivo fluvii pascentem. Ad castra itaque mirabundus revertens, fidei dubius, rem primo occultavit, dein, confecto bello, Confessori suo totam asseruit. Delusoria procul dubio res tota, ac mala veteratoris illius aperitur fraus, qua hominem Christianum ad vetitum tale auxilium pelliceret. Nomen atcunque illius (nobilis alias ac clari) rectendum ducto, cum haud dubium sit quin Diabolus, Deo permittente, formam quam libuerit, immo angeli lucis, sacro oculo Dei teste, posse assu-

mere.” The MS. Chronicle, from which Mr Cradocke took this curious extract, cannot now be found in the chapter library of Durham, or, at least, has hitherto escaped the researches of my friendly correspondent.

Lindesay is made to allude to this adventure of Ralph Bulmer, as a well known story, in the 4th Canto, Stanza XXII. p. 210.

The northern champions of old were accustomed peculiarly to search for, and delight in, encounters with such military spectres. See a whole chapter on the subject in BARTHOLINUS *Causis contemptæ Mortis a Danis*, p. 253.

NOTES TO CANTO IV.

Note I.

Close to the hut, no more his own,

Close to the aid he sought in vain,

The morn may find the stiffen'd swain.—P. 182

I cannot help here mentioning, that, on the night in which these lines were written, suggested, as they were, by a sudden fall of snow, beginning after sun-set, an unfortunate man perished exactly in the manner here described, and his body was next morning found close to his own house. The accident happened within five miles of the arm of Ashestiel.

Note II.

Scarce had lamented Forbes paid, &c.—P. 84.

Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, Baronet ; unequalled, perhaps, in the degree of individual affection entertained for him

by his friends, as well as in the general respect and esteem of Scotland at large. His "Life of Beattie," whom he befriended and patronized in life, as well as celebrated after his decease, was not long published, before the benevolent and affectionate biographer was called to follow the subject of his narrative. This melancholy event very shortly succeeded the marriage of the friend to whom this introduction is addressed, with one of Sir William's daughters.

Note III.

Friar Rush.—P. 193.

This personage is a strolling demon, or *esprit follet*, who, once upon a time, got admittance into a monastery as a scullion, and played the monks many pranks. He was also a sort of Robin Goodfellow, and Jack o'Lantern. It is in allusion to this mischievous demon that Milton's clown speaks,—

She was pinched and pulled, she said,
And he by *friar's lantern* led.

"The History of Friar Rush" is of extreme rarity, and, for some time, even the existence of such a book was doubted, although it is expressly alluded to by Reginald Scot, in his "Discovery of Witchcraft." I have perused a copy in the valuable library of my friend Mr Heber; and I observe, from Mr Beloe's "Anecdotes of Literature," that there is one in the excellent collection of the Marquis of Stafford.

Note IV.

*Sir David Lindesay of the Mount,
Lord Lion King-at-arms.—P. 199.*

The late elaborate edition of Sir David Lindesay's Works, by Mr George Chalmers, has probably introduced him to many of my readers. It is perhaps to be regretted, that the learned editor had not bestowed more pains in elucidating his author, even although he should have omitted, or at least reserved, his disquisitions on the origin of the language used by the poet :*

* I beg leave to quote a single instance from a very interesting passage. Sir David recounting his attention to King James V. in his infancy is made, by the learned editor's punctuation, to say,—

The first sillabis that thou did mute,
Was pa, da, lyn, upon the lute ;
Then played I twenty springis perqueir,
Quhilk was great plesour for to hear.

Vol. I. p. 7. 257.

Mr Chalmers does not inform us, by note or glossary, what is meant by the king "*muting pa, da, lyn, upon the lute ;*" but any old woman in Scotland will bear witness, that pa, da, lyn, are the first efforts of a child to say, *Whare's David Lindesay ?* and that the subsequent words begin another sentence,—

—upon the lute

Then played I twenty springis perqueir, &c.

in another place, "*justing lumis,*" *i. e.* looms, or implements of tilting, is facetiously interpreted "*playful limbs.*" Many such minute errors could be pointed out ; but these are only mentioned incidentally, and not as diminishing the real merit of the edition.

But, with all its faults, his work is an acceptable present to Scottish antiquaries. Sir David Lindesay was well known for his early efforts in favour of the reformed doctrines; and, indeed, his play, coarse as it now seems, must have had a powerful effect upon the people of his age. I am uncertain if I abuse poetical license, by introducing Sir David Lindesay in the character of Lion-Herald sixteen years before he obtained that office. At any rate, I am not the first who has been guilty of the anachronism; for the author of "Flodden Field" dispatches *Dallamont*, which can mean nobody but Sir David de la Mont, to France, on the message of defiance from James IV. to Henry VIII. It was often an office imposed on the Lion King-at-arms, to receive foreign ambassadors: and Lindesay himself did this honour to Sir Ralph Sadler in 1539-40. Indeed, the oath of the Lion, in its first article, bears reference to his frequent employment upon royal messages and embassies.

The office of heralds, in feudal times, being held of the utmost importance, the inauguration of the Kings-at-arms, who presided over their colleges, was proportionally solemn. In fact, it was the mimicry of a royal coronation, except that the unction was made with wine instead of oil. In Scotland, a namesake and kinsman of Sir David Lindesay, inaugurated in 1592, "was crowned by King James with the ancient crown of Scotland, which was used before the Scottish kings assumed a close crown;" and, on occasion of the same solemnity, dined at the king's table, wearing the crown. It is probable that the coronation of his predecessor was not less solemn. So sacred

was the herald's office, that, in 1515, Lord Drummond was by parliament declared guilty of treason, and his lands forfeited, because he had struck, with his fist, the Lion King-at-Arms, when he reprov'd him for his follies.* Nor was he restored, but at the Lion's earnest solicitation.

Note V.

Crichton Castle.—P. 202.

A large ruinous castle on the banks of the Tyne, about seven miles from Edinburgh. As indicated in the text, it was built at different times, and with a very differing regard to splendour and accommodation. The oldest part of the building is a narrow keep, or tower, such as formed the mansion of a lesser Scottish baron ; but so many additions have been made to it, that there is now a large court-yard, surrounded by buildings of different ages. The eastern front of the court is raised above a portico, and decorated with entablatures, bearing anchors. All the stones of this front are cut into diamond facets, the angular projections of which have an uncommonly rich appearance. The inside of this part of the building appears to have contained a gallery of great length, and uncommon elegance. Access was given to it by a magnificent stair-case, now quite destroyed. The soffits are ornamented with twining cordage and rosettes ;

* The record expresses, or rather is said to have expressed, the cause of forfeiture to be,—“*Eo quod Leonem, armorum Regem pugno violasset, dum eum de ineptiis suis admonuit.*” See *Nisbet's Heraldry*, Part IV. chap. 16. ; and *Leslæi Historia ad Annum 1515.*

and the whole seems to have been far more splendid than was usual in Scottish castles. The castle belonged originally to the Chancellor Sir William Crichton, and probably owed to him its first enlargement, as well as its being taken by the Earl of Douglas, who imputed to Crichton's counsels the death of his predecessor Earl William, beheaded in Edinburgh Castle, with his brother, in 1440. It is said to have been totally demolished on that occasion ; but the present state of the ruins shews the contrary. In 1483, it was garrisoned by Lord Crichton, then its proprietor, against King James III., whose displeasure he had incurred by seducing his sister Margaret, in revenge, it is said, for the monarch having dishonoured his bed. From the Crichton family the castle passed to that of the Hepburns, Earls Bothwell ; and when the forfeitures of Stewart, the last Earl Bothwell, were divided, the barony and castle of Crichton fell to the share of the Earl of Buccleugh. They were afterwards the property of the Pringles of Clifton, and are now that of Sir John Callander, Baronet. It were to be wished the proprietor would take a little pains to preserve those splendid remains of antiquity, which are at present used as a fold for sheep, and wintering cattle ; although, perhaps, there are very few ruins in Scotland which display so well the style and beauty of ancient castle-architecture. The castle of Crichton has a dungeon vault, called the *Massy More*. The epithet, which is not uncommonly applied to the prisons of other old castles in Scotland, is of Saracenic origin. It occurs twice in the "*Epistolæ Itinerariæ*" of Tollius : "*Carcer subterraneus, sive, ut Mauri appellant, MAZMORRA,*" p. 147 ; and again, "*Coguntur omnes Captivi*

sub noctem in ergastula subterranea, quæ Turcæ Algezerani vocant MAZMORRAS," p. 243. The same word applies to the dungeons of the ancient Moorish castles in Spain, and serves to shew from what nation the Gothic style of castle-building was originally derived.

Note VI.

Earl Adam Hepburn.—P. 205.

He was the second Earl of Bothwell, and fell in the field of Flodden, where, according to an ancient English poet, he distinguished himself by a furious attempt to retrieve the day:—

Then on the Scottish part, right proud,
 The Earl of Bothwell then out brast,
 And stepping forth with stomach good,
 Into the enemies throng he thrust;
 And *Bothwell! Bothwell!* cried bold,
 To cause his souldiers to ensue,
 But there he caught a wellcome cold,
 The Englishmen straight down him threw.

Flodden Field.

Adam was grandfather to James, Earl of Bothwell, too well known in the history of Queen Mary.

Note VII.

*For that a messenger from heaven,
 In vain to James had counsel given
 Against the English war.—P. 206.*

The story is told by Pitscottie with characteristic simpli-

city : “ The king, seeing that France could get no support of him for that time, made a proclamation, full hastily through all the realm of Scotland, both east and west, south and north, as well in the isles as in the firm land, to all manner of men betwixt sixty and sixteen years, that they should be ready, within twenty days, to pass with him, with forty days victual, and to meet at the Burrow-muir of Edinburgh, and there to pass forward where he pleased. His proclamations were hastily obeyed, contrary the Council of Scotland’s will ; but every man loved his prince so well, that they would on no ways disobey him ; but every man caused make his proclamation so hastily, conform to the charge of the king’s proclamation.

“ The king came to Lithgow, where he happened to be for the time at the Council, very sad and dolorous, making his devotion to God, to send him good chance and fortune in his voyage. In this mean time, there came a man, clad in a blue gown, in at the kirk-door, and belted about him in a roll of linen-cloth : a pair of brotikings* on his feet, to the great of his legs ; with all other hose and clothes conform thereto ; but he had nothing on his head, but syde† red yellow hair behind and on his haffets,‡ which wan down to his shoulders ; but his forehead was bald and bare. He seemed to be a man of two-and-fifty years, with a great pike-staff in his hand, and came first forward among the lords, crying and speiring§ for the king, saying he desired to speak with him. While, at the

* Buskins.

† Long.

‡ Checks.

§ Asking.

last, he came where the king was sitting in the desk at his prayers ; but when he saw the king, he made him little reverence or salutation, but leaned down groffling on the desk before him, and said to him in this manner, as after follows : ‘ Sir king, my mother hath sent me to you, desiring you not to pass, at this time, where thou art purposed ; for if thou does, thou will not fare well in thy journey, nor none that passeth with thee. Further, she bade thee mell* with no woman, nor use their counsel, nor let them touch thy body, nor thou theirs ; for, if thou do it, thou wilt be confounded and brought to shame.’

“ By this man had spoken thir words unto the king’s grace, the evening song was near done, and the king paused on thir words, studying to give him an answer ; but, in the mean time, before the king’s eyes, and in the presence of all the lords that were about him for the time, this man vanished away, and could no ways be seen or comprehended, but vanished away as he had been a blink of the sun, or a whip of the whirlwind, and could no more be seen. I heard say, Sir David Lindesay, lyon-herald, and John Inglis the marshal, who were, at that time, young men, and special servants to the king’s grace, were standing presently beside the king, who thought to have laid hands on this man, that they might have speired further tidings at him : But all for nought ; they could not touch him ; for he vanished away betwixt them, and was no more seen.”

* Meddle.

Buchanan, in more elegant, though not more impressive language, tells the same story, and quotes the personal information of our Sir David Lindesay: “ *In iis (i. e. qui propius astiterant) fuit David Lindesius, Montanus, homo spectatæ fidei et probitatis, nec a literarum studiis alienus, et cujus totius vitæ tenor longissime a mentiendo aberrat; a quo nisi ego hæc uti tradidi, pro certis accepissem, ut vulgatam vanis rumoribus fabulam, omisurus eram.*” Lib. XIII.—The king’s throne in St Catherine’s aisle, which he had constructed for himself, with twelve stalls for the Knights Companions of the Order of the Thistle, is still shewn as the place where the apparition was seen. I know not by what means St Andrew got the credit of having been the celebrated monitor of James IV. ; for the expression in Lindesay’s narrative, “ My mother has sent me,” could only be used by St John, the adopted son of the Virgin Mary. The whole story is so well attested, that we have only the choice between a miracle or an imposture. Mr Pinkerton plausibly argues, from the caution against incontinence, that the queen was privy to the scheme of those who had recourse to this expedient, to deter King James from his impolitic warfare.

Note VIII.

The wild buck bells.—P. 207.

I am glad of an opportunity to describe the cry of the deer by another word than *braying*, although the latter has been sanctified by the use of the Scottish metrical translation of the Psalms. *Bell* seems to be an abbreviation of *bellow*. This

sylvan sound conveyed great delight to our ancestors, chiefly, I suppose, from association. A gentle knight in the reign of Henry VIII., Sir Thomas Wortley, built Wantley lodge, in Wancliffe Forest, for the pleasure (as an ancient inscription testifies,) of “listening to the hart’s *bell*.”

Note IX.

June saw his father’s overthrow.—P. 207.

The rebellion against James III. was signalized by the cruel circumstance of his son’s presence in the hostile army. When the king saw his own banner displayed against him, and his son in the faction of his enemies, he lost the little courage he had ever possessed, fled out of the field, fell from his horse as it started at a woman and water-pitcher, and was slain, it is not well understood by whom. James IV., after the battle, passed to Stirling, and hearing the monks of the chapel-royal deploring the death of his father, their founder, he was seized with deep remorse, which manifested itself in severe penances. See a following Note on Canto V. The battle of Sauchie-burn, in which James III. fell, was fought 18th June, 1488.

Note X.

Spread all the Borough-Moor below, &c.—P. 219.

The Borough, or common Moor of Edinburgh, was of very great extent, reaching from the southern walls of the city to the bottom of Braid Hills. It was anciently a forest: and, in that state, was so great a nuisance, that the inhabitants of Edinburgh had permission granted to them of building wooden gal-

leries, projecting over the street, in order to encourage them to consume the timber; which they seem to have done very effectually. When James IV. mustered the array of the kingdom there, in 1513, the Borough-Moor was, according to Hawthornden, “a field spacious, and delightful by the shade of many stately and aged oaks.” Upon that, and similar occasions, the royal standard is traditionally said to have been displayed from the Hare Stane, a high stone, now built into the wall, on the left hand of the high-way leading towards Braid, not far from the head of Burntsfield-links. The Hare Stone probably derives its name from the British word *Har*, signifying an army.

Note XI.

O'er the pavilions flew.—P. 222.

I do not exactly know the Scottish mode of encampment in 1513, but Patten gives a curious description of that which he saw after the battle of Pinkey, in 1547 :—“ Here now to say somewhat of the manner of their camp : As they had no pavilions, or round houses, of any commendable compass, so wear there few other tentes with posts, as the used manner of making is ; and of these few also, none of above twenty foot length, but most far under ; for the most part all very sumptuously beset, (after their fashion,) for the love of France, with fleur-de-lys, some of blue buckram, some of black, and some of some other colours. These white ridges, as I call them, that as we stood on Fauxsyde Bray, did make so great muster toward us, which I did take then to be a number of tentes, when we came, we found it a linen drapery, of the coarser cambryk in dede, for

it was all of canvas sheets, and wear the tenticles, or rather cabayns and couches of their soldiers; the which (much after the common buildings of their country beside) had they framed of four sticks, about an ell long a piece, whereof two fastened together at one end aloft and the two ends beneath stuck in the ground, an ell asunder, standing in fashion like the bowes of a sowes yoke; over two such bowes (one, as it were, at their head, the other at their feet,) they stretched a sheet down on both sides, whereby their cabin became roofed like a ridge, but skant shut at both ends, and not very close beneath on the sides, unless their sticks were the shorter, or their wives the more liberal to lend them larger napery; howbeit, when they had lined them, and stuff'd them so thick with straw, with the weather as it was not very cold, when they wear ones couched, they were as warm as they had been wrapt in horses dung."—
 PATTEN'S *Account of Somerset's Expedition.*

Note XII.

—*in proud Scotland's royal shield*

The ruddy Lion ramp'd in gold.—P. 223.

The well-known arms of Scotland. If you will believe Boethius and Buchanan, the double tressure round the shield, mentioned p. 193, *counter fleur-de-lised or, lingued and armed azure*, was first assumed by Achaius, King of Scotland, contemporary of Charlemagne, and founder of the celebrated League with France; but later antiquaries make poor Eochy, or Achy, little better than a sort of King of Brentford, whom old Grig

(who has also swelled into Gregorius Magnus,) associated with himself in the important duty of governing some part of the north-eastern coast of Scotland.

NOTES TO CANTO V.

Note I.

Caledonia's Queen is changed.—P. 235.

The Old Town of Edinburgh was secured on the north side by a lake, now drained, and on the south by a wall, which there was some attempt to make defensible even so late as 1745. The gates, and the greater part of the wall, have been pulled down, in the course of the late extensive and beautiful enlargement of the city. My ingenious and valued friend, Mr Thomas Campbell, proposed to celebrate Edinburgh under the epithet here borrowed. But the “Queen of the North” has not been so fortunate as to receive from so eminent a pen the proposed distinction.

Note II.

Flinging thy white arms to the sea.—P. 236.

Since writing this line, I find I have inadvertently borrowed

it almost verbatim, though with somewhat a different meaning, from a chorus in “ Caractacus :”

Britain heard the descant bold,
 She flung her white arms o’er the sea,
 Proud in her leafy bosom to unfold
 The freight of harmony.

Note III.

*Since first, when conquering York arose,
 To Henry meek she gave repose.—P. 239.*

Henry VI., with his queen, his heir, and the chiefs of his family, fled to Scotland after the fatal battle of Towton. In this note a doubt was formerly expressed, whether Henry VI. came to Edinburgh, though his queen certainly did; Mr Pinkerton inclining to believe that he remained at Kirkcudbright. But my noble friend, Lord Napier, has pointed out to me a grant by Henry, of an annuity of forty marks to his lordship’s ancestor, John Napier, subscribed by the king himself, *at Edinburgh*, the 28th day of August, in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, which corresponds to the year of God 1461. This grant, Douglas, with his usual neglect of accuracy, dates in 1368. But this error being corrected from the copy in Macfarlane’s MSS. p. 119, 120, removes all scepticism on the subject of Henry VI. being really at Edinburgh. John Napier was son and heir of Sir Alexander Napier, and about this time was Provost of Edinburgh. The hospitable reception of the distressed monarch and his family called forth on Scotland the

encomium of Molinet, a contemporary poet. The English people he says,—

*Ung nouveau roy créerent,
Par despiteux vouloir,
Le veil en degoutérent,
Et son legitime hoir,
Qui faytyf alla prendre
D'Escossé le garand,
De tous le mendre,
Et le plus tollerant,*

RECOLLECTION DES AVANTURES.

Note IV.

———*the romantic strain,*

*Whose Anglo-Norman strains, whilere,
Could win the Royal Henry's ear.—P. 240.*

Mr Ellis, in his valuable Introduction to the “Specimens of Romance,” has proved, by the concurring testimony of La Ravallere, Tressan, but especially the Abbe de la Rue, that the courts of our Anglo-Norman kings, rather than those of the French Monarchs, produced the birth of Romance Literature. Marie, soon after mentioned, compiled from Armorican originals, and translated into Norman-French, or romance language, the twelve curious Lays, of which Mr Ellis has given us a *precis* in the Appendix to his Introduction. The story of Blondel, the famous and faithful minstrel of Richard I., needs no commentary.

Note V.

The cloth-yard arrows flew like hail.—P. 248.

This is no poetical exaggeration. In some of the counties of England, distinguished for archery, shafts of this extraordinary length were actually used. Thus, at the battle of Blackheath, between the troops of Henry VII. and the Cornish insurgents, in 1496, the bridge of Dartford was defended by a picked band of archers from the rebel army, “whose arrows,” says Hollinshed, “were in length a full cloth-yard.” The Scottish, according to Ascham, had a proverb, that every English archer carried under his belt twenty-four Scots, in allusion to his bundle of unerring shafts.

Note VI.

To pass, to wheel, the croupe to gain,

And high curvett, that not in vain

The sword-sway might descend amain

On foeman's casque below.—P. 249.

“The most useful *air*, as the Frenchmen term it, is *terriferr*; the *courbettes*, *cabrioles*, or *un pass et un sault*, being fitter for horses of parade and triumph than for soldiers: yet I cannot deny but a *demivolte* with *courbettes*, so that they be not too high, may be useful in a fight or *meslee*; for, as Labroue hath it, in his Book of Horsemanship, Monsieur de Montmorency, having a horse that was excellent in performing the *demivolte*, did, with his sword, strike down two adversaries from their horses in a tourney, where divers of the prime

gallants of France did meet ; for, taking his time, when the horse was in the height of his *courbette*, and discharging a blow then, his sword fell with such weight and force upon the two cavaliers, one after another, that he struck them from their horses to the ground.”—*Lord Herbert of Cherbury's Life*, p. 48.

Note VII.

He saw the hardy burghers there

March arm'd on foot with faces bare.—P. 249.

The Scottish burgesses were, like yeomen, appointed to be armed with bows and sheaves, sword, buckler, knife, spear, or a good axe instead of a bow, if worth £100 ; their armour to be of white or bright harness. They wore *white hats*, *i. e.* bright steel caps, without crest or visor. By an act of James IV., their *weapon-shawings* are appointed to be held four times a-year, under the aldermen or bailiffs.

Note VIII.

On foot the yeoman too.—P. 250.

Bows and quivers were in vain recommended to the peasantry of Scotland, by repeated statutes : spears and axes seem universally to have been used instead of them. Their defensive armour was the plate-jack, hauberk, or brigantine ; and their missile weapons cross-bows and culverins. All wore swords of excellent temper, according to Patten ; and a voluminous handkerchief round their neck, “ not for cold, but for cutting.” The mace also was much used in the Scottish

army : The old poem, on the battle of Flodden, mentions a band—

Who manfully did meet their foes,
With leaden mauls, and lances long.

When the feudal array of the kingdom was called forth, each man was obliged to appear with forty days' provision. When this was expended, which took place before the battle of Flodden, the army melted away of course. Almost all the Scottish forces, except a few knights, men-at-arms, and the Border-prickers, who formed excellent light cavalry, acted upon foot.

Note IX.

A banquet rich and costly wines.—P. 256.

In all transactions of great or petty importance, and among whomsoever taking place, it would seem, that a present of wine was an uniform and indispensable preliminary. It was not to Sir John Falstaff alone that such an introductory preface was necessary, however well judged and acceptable on the part of Mr Brook ; for Sir Ralph Sadler, while on embassy to Scotland, in 1539-40, mentions, with complacency, “the same night came Rothesay (the herald so called) to me again, and brought me wine from the king, both white and red.”—*Clifford's Edition*, p. 39.

Note X.

———*his iron belt,*

That bound his breast in penance pain,

In memory of his father slain.—P. 260.

Few readers need to be reminded of this belt, to the weight of which James added certain ounces every year that he lived. Pitscottie founds his belief, that James was not slain in the battle of Flodden, because the English never had this token of the iron-belt to shew to any Scotsman. The person and character of James are delineated according to our best historians. His romantic disposition, which led him highly to relish gaiety, approaching to licence, was, at the same time, tinged with enthusiastic devotion. These propensities sometimes formed a strange contrast. He was wont, during his fits of devotion, to assume the dress, and conform to the rules, of the order of Franciscans ; and when he had thus done penance for some time in Stirling, to plunge again into the tide of pleasure. Probably, too, with no unusual inconsistency, he sometimes laughed at the superstitious observances to which he at other times subjected himself. There is a very singular poem by Dunbar, seemingly addressed to James IV., on one of these occasions of monastic seclusion. It is a most daring and profane parody on the services of the church of Rome, entitled,

Dunbar's Dirge to the King,
Byding ower lang in Striviling.

We that are here, in heaven's glory,
To you that are in purgatory,

Commend us on our hearty wise ;
 I mean we folks in Paradise,
 In Edinburgh with all merriness,
 To you in Stirling, with distress,
 Where neither pleasure nor delight is,
 For pity this epistle wrytis, &c.

See the whole in Sibbald's collection, vol. I. p. 234.

Note XI.

Sir Hugh the Heron's wife held sway.—P. 261.

It has been already noticed, that King James's acquaintance with Lady Heron of Ford did not commence until he marched into England. Our historians impute to the king's infatuated passion the delays which led to the fatal defeat of Flodden. The author of "The Genealogy of the Heron Family," endeavours, with laudable anxiety, to clear the Lady Ford from this scandal : that she came and went, however, between the armies of James and Surrey, is certain. See PINKERTON'S *History*, and the authorities he refers to, vol. II. p. 99. Heron of Ford had been, in 1511, in some sort accessory to the slaughter of Sir Robert Ker of Cessford, Warden of the Middle Marches. It was committed by his brother the Bastard, Lilburn, and Starked, three Borderers. Lilburn, and Heron of Ford, were delivered up by Henry to James, and were imprisoned in the fortress of Fastcastle, where the former died. Part of the pretence of Lady Ford's negotiations with James was the liberty of her husband.

Note XII.

*For the fair Queen of France
Sent him a Turquoise ring, and glove,
And charged him, as her knight and love,
For her to break a lance.—P. 261.*

“Also the Queen of France wrote a love-letter to the King of Scotland, calling him her love, shewing him that she had suffered much rebuke in France for the defending of his honour. She believed surely that he would recompense her again with some of his kingly support in her necessity ; that is to say, that he would raise her an army, and come three foot of ground on English ground, for her sake. To this effect she sent him a ring off her finger, with fourteen thousand French crowns to pay his expenses.” PITSCOTTIE, p. 110.—A turquoise ring ; —probably this fatal gift is, with James’s sword and dagger, preserved in the College of Heralds, London.

Note XIII.

Archibald Bell-the-Cat.—P. 269.

Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus, a man remarkable for strength of body and mind, acquired the popular name of *Bell-the-Cat*, upon the following remarkable occasion : James the Third, of whom Pitscottie complains, that he delighted more in music, and “policies of building,” than in hunting, hawking, and other noble exercises, was so ill advised, as to make favourites of his architects, and musicians, whom the same historian irreverently terms masons and fiddlers. His nobility, who did

not sympathise in the king's respect for the fine arts, were extremely incensed at the honours conferred on those persons, particularly on Cochrane, a mason, who had been created Earl of Mar. And seizing the opportunity, when, in 1482, the king had convoked the whole array of the country to march against the English, they held a midnight council in the church of Lauder, for the purpose of forcibly removing those minions from the king's person. When all had agreed on the propriety of the measure, Lord Gray told the assembly the apologue of the Mice, who had formed the resolution, that it would be highly advantageous to their community to tie a bell round the Cat's neck, that they might hear her approach at a distance; but which public measure unfortunately miscarried, from no mouse being willing to undertake the task of fastening the bell. "I understand the moral," said Angus, "and, that what we propose may not lack execution, I will *bell-the-cat*." The rest of the strange scene is thus told by Pitscottie:—

“ By this was advised and spoken by thir lords aforesaid, Cochrane the Earl of Mar came from the king to the council, (which council was holden in the kirk of Lauder for the time,) who was well accompanied with a band of men of war, to the number of three hundred light axes, all clad in white livery, and black bends thereon, that they might be known for Cochran Earl of Mar's men. Himself was clad in a riding-pie of black velvet, with a great chain of gold about his neck, to the value of five hundred crowns, and four blowing horns, with both the ends of gold and silk, set with a precious stone, called a berryl, hanging in the midst. This Cochrane had his heumont

born before him, overgilt with gold ; and so were all the rest of his horns, and all his pallions were of fine canvas of silk, and the cords thereof fine twined silk, and the chains upon his pallions were double overgilt with gold.

“ This Cochran was so proud in his conceit, that he counted no lords to be marrows to him ; therefore he rushed rudely at the kirk-door. The council enquired who it was that perturb-ed them at that time. Sir Robert Douglas, Laird of Lochleven, was keeper of the kirk-door at that time, who enquired who that was that knocked so rudely ? and Cochran answered, ‘ This is I, the Earl of Mar.’ The which news pleased well the lords, because they were ready boun to cause take him, as is afore rehearsed. Then the Earl of Angus past hastily to the door, and with him Sir Robert Douglas of Lochleven, there to receive in the Earl of Mar, and so many of his complices who were there, as they thought good. And the Earl of Angus met with the Earl of Mar, as he came in at the door, and pulled the golden chain from his craig, and said to him a tow* would set him better. Sir Robert Douglas syne pulled the blowing horn from him in like manner, and said, ‘ He had been the hunter of mischief over long.’ This Cochran asked, ‘ My lords, is it mows, † or earnest ?’ They answered, and said, ‘ It is good earnest, and so thou shalt find : for thou and thy complices have abused our prince this long time ; of whom thou shalt have no more credence, but shall have thy reward according to thy good ser-

* Rope.

† Jest.

vice, as thou hast deserved in times bypast ; right so the rest of thy followers.’

“Notwithstanding, the lords held them quiet till they caused certain armed men to pass into the king’s pallion, and two or three wise men to pass with them, and give the king fair pleasant words, till they laid hands on all the king’s servants, and took them and hanged them before his eyes over the bridge of Lawder. Incontinent they brought forth Cochran, and his hands bound with a tow, who desired them to take one of his own pallion tows and bind his hands, for he thought shame to have his hands bound with such a tow of hemp, like a thief. The lords answered, he was a traitor, he deserved no better ; and, for despight, they took a hair tether,* and hanged him over the bridge of Lawder, above the rest of his complices.”—PITSCOTTIE, p. 78, folio edit.

Note XIV.

*Against the war had Angus stood,
And chafed his royal lord.—P. 269.*

Angus was an old man when the war against England was resolved upon. He earnestly spoke against that measure from its commencement ; and, on the eve of the battle of Flodden, remonstrated so freely upon the impolicy of fighting, that the king said to him, with scorn and indignation, “if he was afraid, he might go home.” The earl burst into tears at this unsus-

* Halter.

portable insult, and retired accordingly, leaving his sons, George, Master of Angus, and Sir William of Glenbervie, to command his followers. They were both slain in the battle, with two hundred gentlemen of the name of Douglas. The aged earl, broken-hearted at the calamities of his house and country, retired into a religious house, where he died about a year after the field of Flodden.

Note XV.

Then rest you in Tantallon Hold.—P. 270.

The ruins of Tantallon Castle occupy a high rock projecting into the German Ocean, about two miles east of North Berwick. The building is not seen till a close approach, as there is rising ground betwixt it and the land. The circuit is of large extent, fenced upon three sides by the precipice which overhangs the sea, and on the fourth by a double ditch and very strong outworks. Tantallon was a principal castle of the Douglas family, and when the Earl of Angus was banished, in 1527, it continued to hold out against James V. The king went in person against it, and, for its reduction, borrowed from the castle of Dunbar, then belonging to the Duke of Albany, two great cannons, whose names, as Pitscottie informs us with laudable minuteness, were “Thrawn-mouth’d Mow and her Marrow;” also, “two great botcards, and two moyan, two double falcons, and four quarter falcons;” for the safe guiding and re-delivery of which, three lords were laid in pawn at Dunbar. Yet, notwithstanding all this apparatus, James was forced to raise the

siege, and only afterwards obtained possession of Tantallon by treaty with the governor, Simeon Panango. When the Earl of Angus returned from banishment, upon the death of James, he again obtained possession of Tantallon, and it actually afforded refuge to an English ambassador, under circumstances similar to those described in the text. This was no other than the celebrated Sir Ralph Sadler, who resided there for some time under Angus's protection, after the failure of his negociation, for matching the infant Mary with Edward VI. He says, that though this place was poorly furnished, it was of such strength as might warrant him against the malice of his enemies, and that he now thought himself out of danger.*

There is a military tradition, that the old Scottish March was meant to express the words,

Ding down Tantallon,
Mak a brig to the Bass.

Tantallon was at length "dung down" and ruined by the Covenanters; its lord, the Marquis of Douglas, being a favourer of the royal cause. The castle and barony were sold in the beginning of the eighteenth century to President Dalrymple of North Berwick, by the then Marquis of Douglas.

* The very curious State Papers of this able negociator have been lately published by Mr Clifford, with some Notes by the author of *Marmion*.

Note XVI.

Their motto on his blade.—P. 270.

A very ancient sword, in possession of Lord Douglas, bears, among a great deal of flourishing, two hands pointing to a heart which is placed betwixt them, and the date 1329, being the year in which Bruce charged the Good Lord Douglas to carry his heart to the Holy Land. The following lines (the first couplet of which is quoted by Godscroft as a popular saying in his time) are inscribed around the emblem :

So mony guid as of ye Douglas beinge,
Of ane surname was ne'er in Scotland seine.

I will ye charge, efter yat I depart,
To holy grawe, and thair bury my hart ;
Let it remane ever **BO THE TIME AND HOWR,**
To ye last day I sie my Saviour.

I do protest in tyme of al my ringe,
Ye lyk subject had never ony keing.

This curious and valuable relique was nearly lost during the civil war of 1745-6, being carried away from Douglas-Castle by some of those in arms for Prince Charles. But great interest having been made by the Duke of Douglas among the chief partizans of Stuart, it was at length restored. It resembles a Highland claymore, of the usual size, is of an excellent temper, and admirably poized.

Note XVII.

Martin Swart.—P. 279.

The name of this German general is preserved by that of the field of battle, which is called, after him, Swart-moor.—There were songs about him long current in England.—See Dissertation prefixed to RITSON'S *Ancient Songs*, 1792, page lxi.

Note XVIII.

Perchance some form was unobserved,

Perchance in point of faith he swerved.—P. 280.

It was early necessary for those who felt themselves obliged to believe in the divine judgment being enunciated in the trial by duel, to find salvos for the strange and obviously precarious chances of the combat. Various curious evasive shifts, used by those who took up an unrighteous quarrel, were supposed sufficient to convert it into a just one. Thus, in the romance of “Amys and Amelion,” the one brother-in-arms, fighting for the other, disguised in his armour, swears that *he* did not commit the crime of which the Steward, his antagonist, truly, though maliciously, accused him whom he represented. Brantome tells a story of an Italian, who entered the lists upon an unjust quarrel, but, to make his cause good, fled from his enemy at the first onset. “Turn, coward!” exclaimed his antagonist. “Thou liest,” said the Italian, “coward am I none; and in this quarrel will I fight to the death, but my first cause of combat was unjust, and I abandon it.” “*Je vous laisse a*

penser,” adds Brantome, “*s’il ny a pas de l’abus la.*” Elsewhere he says, very sensibly, upon the confidence which those who had a righteous cause entertained of victory; “*Un autre abus y avoit-il, que ceux qui avoient un juste sujet de querelle, et qu’on les faisoit jurer avant entrer au camp, pensoient estre aussitost vainqueurs, voire s’en assuroient-t-ils du tout, mesmes que leurs confesseurs, parrains et confidants leurs en respondoient tout-a-fait, comme si Dieu leur en eust donné une patente; et ne regardant point à d’autres fautes passées, et que Dieu en garde la punition à ce coup là pour plus grande, despitouse, ex exemplaire.*”—Discours sur les Duels.

Note XIX.

Dun-Edin’s Cross.—P. 285.

The Cross of Edinburgh was an ancient and curious structure. The lower part was an octagonal tower, sixteen feet in diameter, and about fifteen feet high. At each angle there was a pillar, and between them an arch, of the Grecian shape. Above these was a projecting battlement, with a turret at each corner, and medallions, of rude but curious workmanship, between them. Above this rose the proper Cross, a column of one stone, upward of twenty feet high, surmounted with a unicorn. This pillar is preserved at the House of Drum, near Edinburgh. The Magistrates of Edinburgh, in 1756, with consent of the Lords of Session, (*proh pudor!*) destroyed this curious monument, under a wanton pretext, that it encumbered the street; while, on the one hand, they left an ugly mass, called the Luckenbooths, and, on the other, an awkward, long, and

low guard-house, which were fifty times more encumbrance than the venerable and inoffensive Cross.

From the tower of the Cross, so long as it remained, the heralds published the acts of Parliament; and its scite, marked by radii, diverging from a stone centre, in the High Street, is still the place where proclamations are made.

Note XX.

This awful summons came.—P. 287.

This supernatural citation is mentioned by all our Scottish historians. It was probably, like the apparition at Linlithgow, an attempt, by those averse to the war, to impose upon the superstitious temper of James IV. The following account from Pitscottie is characteristically minute, and furnishes, besides, some curious particulars of the equipment of the army of James IV. I need only add to it, that Plotcock, or Plutock, is no other than Pluto. The Christians of the middle ages by no means disbelieved in the existence of the heathen deities; they only considered them as devils; * and Plotcock, so far

* See, on this curious subject, the Essay on Fairies, in the "Border Minstrelsy," vol. II., under the fourth head; also Jackson on Unbelief, p. 175. Chaucer calls Pluto the "King of Faerie;" and Dunbar names him "Pluto, that elrich incubus." If he was not actually the devil, he must be considered as the "prince of the power of the air." The most remarkable instance of these surviving classical superstitions, is that of the Germans, concerning the Hill of Venus, into which she attempts to entice all gallant knights, and detains them in a sort of Fool's Paradise.

from implying any thing fabulous, was a synonyme of the grand enemy of mankind. “ Yet all thir warnings, and uncouth tidings, nor no good counsel, might stop the king, at this present, from his vain purpose, and wicked enterprise, but hasted him fast to Edinburgh, and there to make his provisions and furnishing, in having forth of his army against the day appointed, that they should meet in the Burrow-muir of Edinburgh : That is to say, seven cannons that he had forth of the castle of Edinburgh, which were called the Seven Sisters, casten by Robert Borthwick, the master-gunner, with other small artillery, bullet, powder, and all manner of order, as the master-gunner could devise.

“ In this mean time, when they were taking forth their artillery, and the king being in the Abbey for the time, there was a cry heard at the Market-cross of Edinburgh, at the hour of midnight, proclaiming as it had been a summons, which was named and called by the proclaimer thereof, The Summons of Plotcock ; which desired all men to compear, both Earl, and Lord, and Baron, and all honest gentlemen within the town, (every man specified by his own name,) to compear, within the space of forty days, before his master, where it should happen him to appoint, and be for the time, under the pain of disobedience. But whether this summons was proclaimed by vain persons, night walkers, or drunken men, for their pastime, or if it was a spirit, I cannot tell truly ; but it was shewn to me, that an indweller of the town, Mr Richard Lawson, being evil-disposed, ganging in his gallery-stair foreanent the cross, hearing this voice proclaiming this summons, thought marvel what

it should be, cried on his servant to bring him his purse ; and when he had brought him it, he took out a crown, and cast over the stair, saying, I appeal from that summons, judgment, and sentence thereof, and takes me all whole in the mercy of God, in Christ Jesus his son. Verily the author of this, that caused me write the manner of the summons, was a landed gentleman, who was at that time twenty years of age, and was in the town the time of the said summons ; and thereafter, when the field was stricken, he swore to me, there was no man that escaped that was called in this summons, but that one man alone which made his protestation, and appealed from the said summons ; but all the lave were perished in the field with the king.”

Note XXI.

Fitz-Eustace bade them pause a while

Before a venerable pile.—P. 292.

The convent alluded to is a foundation of Cistercian nuns, near North Berwick, of which there are still some remains. It was founded by Duncan, Earl of Fife, in 1216.

Note XXII.

That one of his own ancestry

Drove the Monks forth of Coventry.—P. 296.

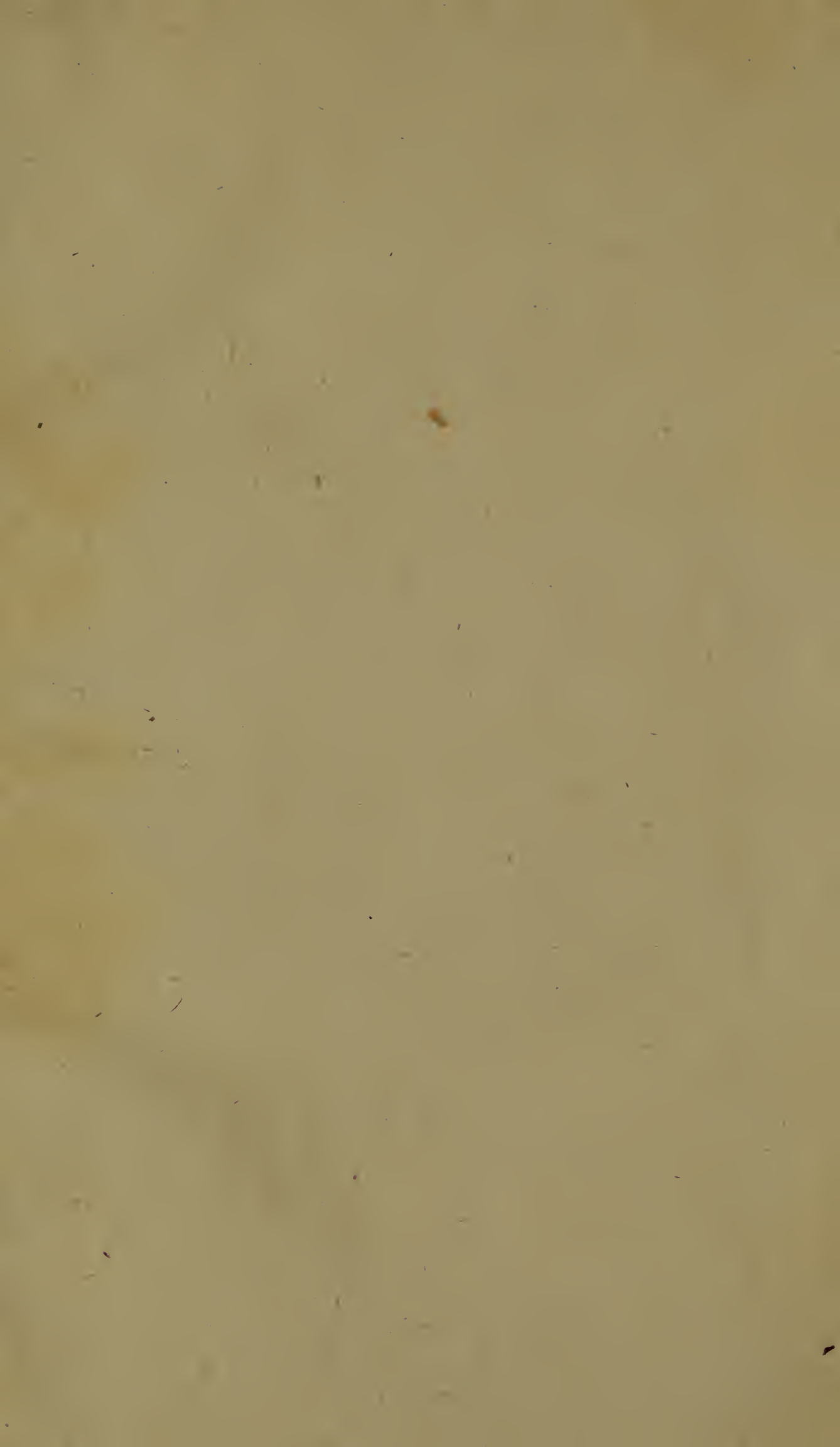
This relates to the catastrophe of a real Robert de Marmion, in the reign of King Stephen, whom William of Newbury describes with some attributes of my fictitious hero : “ *Homo bellicosus, ferocia, et astucia, fere nullo suo tempore impar.*”

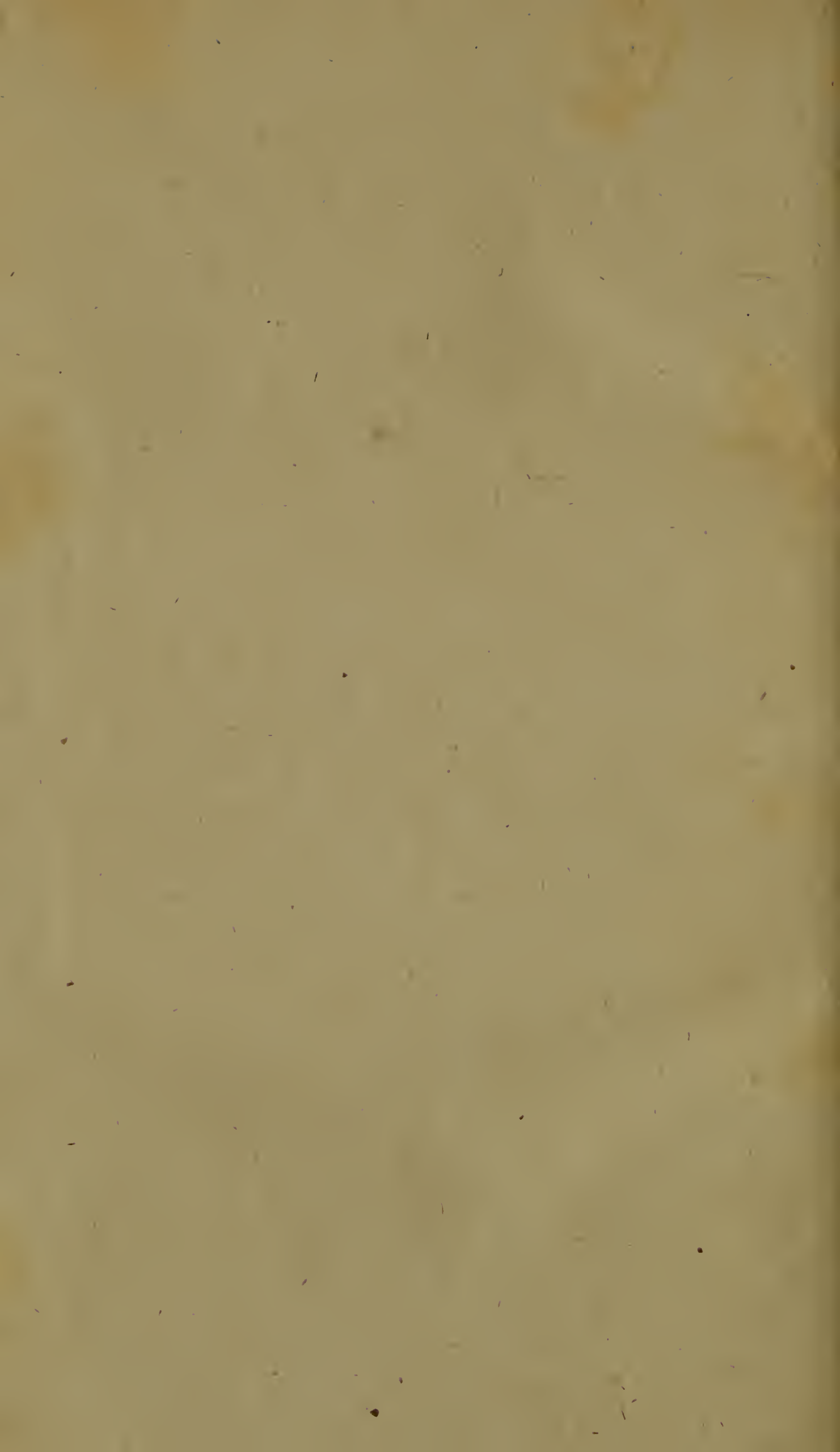
This Baron, having expelled the monks from the church of Coventry, was not long of experiencing the divine judgment, as the same monks no doubt termed his disaster. Having waged a feudal war with the Earl of Chester, Marmion's horse fell, as he charged in the van of his troop, against a body of the Earl's followers: the rider's thigh being broken by the fall, his head was cut off by a common foot-soldier, ere he could receive any succour. The whole story is told by William of Newbury.

END OF VOLUME SECOND.

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